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UAE minister invited to Iran

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran Sunday invited United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan to visit Tehran. The UAE and Iran are locked in a territorial dispute over three strategic islands. They failed to resolve the problem at talks in Abu Dhabi in September but the issue was raised again during Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's tour last month of Gulf Arab states. The Iranian ambassador in Abu Dhabi handed Sheikh Hamdan an invitation from Mr. Velayati to visit Tehran, the official emirates news agency, WAM, said. It did not say when he would go.

Killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Security forces killed six militants in incidents around the capital, military sources said Sunday, and officials intensifying their crackdown put a more extensive curfew into effect. In Kabylie, about 100 kilometres west of Algiers, authorities launched a search Saturday after members of the armed Islamic movement attacked a local government building in Tizi Ouzou. Overnight Saturday, security forces killed five Muslim extremists in Leveille, a southern suburb of Algiers known for extremist activity. A sixth was killed near Moretti, on the western edge of the capital, said the military sources.

Mongolians vote

BEIJING (AP) — Mongolians voted Sunday in their first multi-party presidential elections ever, choosing between a conservative newspaper editor and an incumbent who was dumped by the ruling former communists. Recent opinion polls showed President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat favoured over Lodongiyin Tudev, editor of the official newspaper Umen. Mr. Ochirbat, 50, a career politician in the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, is running now as the joint candidate of two opposition parties, the National Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party.

Indian troops kill 2 infiltrators

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian troops shot and killed three guerrillas trying to cross from Pakistan into the disputed state of Kashmir, Press Trust of India reported. Pakistani soldiers fired Saturday at Indian troops to divert their attention as the infiltrators cross into India, Press Trust reported. Indian troops returned fire, killing three infiltrators and wounding several others, Press Trust reported. Defence Ministry spokesmen were not immediately available to comment.

U.S. changes submarine operations for safety

KIEV (R) — The United States has made a dramatic change in its navy submarine operations to avoid a recurrence of two recent collisions with Russian subs in Arctic waters, U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Sunday. "We have a dramatic, fundamental change," Mr. Aspin told reporters flying with him from Germany on a visit to the former Soviet republic of Ukraine. Mr. Aspin refused to give details of the changes, but he had informed Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev the move during talks in Gardelegen, Germany, which ended early Sunday. Mr. Aspin said the change went into effect last week when it was submitted to the White House and approved by President Bill Clinton.

Mandela calls for national meeting

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela called Sunday for leading political groups to hold a peace meeting aimed at halting ethnic violence. Black and white negotiations last week set April 27 as a tentative date for the nation's first elections including the black majority, but some groups oppose planning elections until the violence diminishes. Mr. Mandela and groups that signed a national peace accord in 1991 — including the government, His African National Congress and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party — should meet urgently to address the problem in union.

Arabs seek increased involvement of U.S. and Russia in peace process

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign ministers of the Arab parties to the Middle East peace process and Egypt said Sunday they would seek more U.S. and Russian intervention in the negotiations to ensure progress in the stalemate talks but fell short of directly announcing their agreement to attend the 10th round of negotiations, scheduled to begin in Washington on June 15.

"Out of their serious commitment to the peace process and... to (reach) a just and comprehensive peace that will put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of complete withdrawal for complete peace, and in reference to the principles of the peace process, especially the principle of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 423," said the communiqué, which was read out by Mr. Al Hassan around midnight.

Blaming Israel for the failure of the previous round of talks to make progress, the ministers condemned what they called Israeli violations of international law and the terms of reference of the peace process and warned that these practices could jeopardise the negotiations.

The ministers, who will hold their next coordination meeting in Lebanon, reiterated their commitment to reaching a just and comprehensive peace with Israel on the basis of

relevant Security Council resolutions and peace in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967.

While the final communiqué did not include a direct Arab announcement that the Arabs would attend the 10th round of talks, officials said earlier that such a decision was a foregone conclusion.

Delegates aid the decision was implicit in the communiqué.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said earlier that Jordan and Israel were nearing an agreement on a draft agenda for their negotiations that was initially reached in the seventh round of talks last year.

"We have almost already finalised and finished with our agenda with its substance. Still we have minor problems with the language (but these) will be cleared soon," Dr. Majali told journalists after welcoming the ministers to the meeting as men of peace, seeking a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was Sunday quoted as claiming that Israel and Jordan had reached a peace agreement "and all it needs is to be signed."

The Associated Press also said Mr. Peres indicated during a speech at Haifa University that the closure of the occupied territories will remain until an agreement on self-interim period with the Palestinians was reached.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the largest bloc in Jordan's Parliament, meanwhile called on the Arab conference to withdraw from the peace

process and vowed to "resist it with all possible ways and means."

The Brotherhood criticised Dr. Majali for saying that Jordan had made progress in finalising an agenda for negotiations with Israel.

It said the agenda ignored core issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said earlier that Jordan and Israel were nearing an agreement on a draft agenda for their negotiations that was initially reached in the seventh round of talks last year.

"The Arabs have an understanding that no separate peace agreements will be reached with Israel before the Palestinians thrash out a settlement on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

A senior PLO official speaking after the first session Sunday, said the Palestinians asked the conference to consider pressing for high-level meetings of the Arabs involved in the peace talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to pin down the Americans on key issues. He did not elaborate.

But Suleiman Najiib, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said earlier Sunday that the Palestinians want the Americans to pledge that the talks will lead to Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Arafat urges greater U.N. role; 'Gaza first' is Israeli focus; Hussein to consult Arafat before Washington trip, page 10



Hassan. From left to right are: Farouk Al Sharaf of Syria, Faris Bouez of Lebanon and Amr Musa of Egypt (Petra photo)

King says strength, fairness of Arab cause gain more support

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday stressed the strength and fairness of the Arab cause and said it was attracting increasing support.

In a meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said the current critical situation through which the Arab Nation passing requires a high degree of responsibility.

King Hussein voiced satisfaction with the inter-Arab coordination in the peace process

saying that it "constitutes the nucleus to resume dialogue and develop genuine cooperation among Arab countries on firm and solid grounds."

King Hussein emphasised the need for a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region based on international legitimacy, and called on the foreign ministers to push the peace process forward with a view to guaranteeing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The King referred to the daily suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and expressed Jordan's resolve to defend human rights, freedom and dignity.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

The King also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting ministers, heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks and the ambassadors of the countries involved in the peace process.

U.S. warns Israel over road project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The White House has demanded assurances from Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat that none of the U.S. bank loan guarantees would be invested in the occupied territories, the Jerusalem Post reported Sunday.

The demand followed a Post report Friday about a project to build highways connecting Arab cities in the occupied territories to Israel's sea and air ports, in order to enable Israel to play a key economic role in a post-peace Middle East.

The report quoted Housing Minister Director-General Arye Mizrahi as saying the bulk of funds earmarked for these highways was facilitated by the loan guarantees.

Israel has arrested at least three Arab Americans and accused them of bringing funds to Hamas. But none has yet been put on trial, and Israel has offered little evidence for its repeated claims that the Hamas movement was run from abroad.

bids using that money over the green line.

Mr. Shohat, who according to government sources was awakened early Friday morning by a concerned telephone call from Washington, contacted Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who hastened to issue a statement denying that any funds from the U.S. loan guarantees would be invested in the occupied territories, the Post said.

The minister was surprised by the utterances attributed to today's Jerusalem Post to his director-general," the statement said. "The minister stressed that the director-general had never spoken of the bank loan guarantees regarding investments in infrastructure in general and in the territories in particular, since the housing ministry does not deal with funding sources. Nor has the ministry made any new investments in the territories since the establishment of this government."

Sources told the Post they have a plan whereby the Americans and Saudis will foot a large part of the bill in implementing the autonomy plan, including the road infrastructure.

Treasury officials confirmed in their own statement that "the government has no intention of spending any money over the green line."

A treasury official also ridiculed Mr. Mizrahi's vision of turning Israel into "the Hong Kong or Belgium of the Middle East."

"Mizrahi does not know what he is talking about," said a treasury official.

Gad Ben-Ari, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, told Reuters: "Israel does not have any plans to build new roads in the territories — not from its own budget or from any other financial source."

Israel: Hamas did not kill abducted soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel arrested four Palestinians for the killing of a soldier last December that ostensibly led to its mass expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon. But said Sunday they had not acted for the Muslim group Hamas.

A senior official of the General Security Services, Israel's secret police, said the men — all in their 20s and residents of Arab East Jerusalem — had become linked to the Qassam military wing of Hamas only after they killed border policeman Nissim Toledano.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to growing popular anger at a series of attacks on Israeli forces culminating in them Toledano killing, ordered an unprecedented expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

The exile of 415 Palestinians — described by Mr. Rabin as Hamas activists — drew international condemnation and froze Middle East peace talks from December until April 27. They are still stranded in Lebanon.

In subsequent months, the four men subsequently staged a series of attacks, killing two policemen sleeping in their car in March. All three killings were inside Israel.

The security official said the four men contacted a Palestinian link to Qassam after killing Toledano to get weapons and money to buy a car for further attacks. They had no arms until taking Toledano's handgun.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shahal said dozens more arrests were expected. He said some of the cells took orders from the exiles in South Lebanon.

Israel says the nine-week closure of the occupied territories is reducing attacks and making it easier to uncover resistance cells. Palestinians complain it is collecting

"We have known for a while that there is a cell which is targeting policemen and we did a lot openly and secretly to catch that cell," police chief Rafi Peled told Israel Radio.

The four lived in neighbourhoods viewed by Israel as annexed Arab East Jerusalem.

"A cell from Jerusalem has an operational advantage because they have Israeli cars with Israeli licence plates and with Israeli identity cards. Their freedom of movement is greater," Mr. Peled said, adding that they did not arouse suspicion.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal and other officials heralded the arrest announced Saturday of 124 Palestinians as a blow to Hamas and justification for the closure of the occupied territories, now in its third month.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shahal said dozens more arrests were expected. He said some of the cells took orders from the exiles in South Lebanon.

Israel says the nine-week closure of the occupied territories is reducing attacks and making it easier to uncover resistance cells. Palestinians complain it is collecting

active punishment" on the residents of the occupied territories and has cut thousands of Arab workers off from jobs in Israel.

Among the arrested was Zair Jabarin, 28, from Nablus who was accused of arranging funding for 15 cells uncovered in the West Bank, the source said. Jabarin's interrogation led to the capture of many of the activists, he said.

The security source said of the members of the various cells had no formal training.

"They were amateurs, but amateurs can make a lot of harm," he said. "These are people who are probably very fanatic. They were sure about their goals. They didn't do it for money."

Some of the funding for the cells for purchasing cars and weapons came from Islamic activists in the United States, the source said.

Israel has arrested at least three Arab Americans and accused them of bringing funds to Hamas. But none has yet been put on trial, and Israel has offered little evidence for its repeated claims that the Hamas movement was run from abroad.

According to the Post, officials were irked at the claim that the bulk of the budget would come from the U.S. loan guarantees, since it would contravene an explicit U.S. condition which for-

Flare-up in violence hits relief efforts in Somalia

22 Pakistanis, 23 Somalis killed; Islamabad blames Aideed, demands punishment

Combined agency despatches

MOGADISHU — The United Nations and foreign aid agencies began evacuating workers Sunday after battles between Somalis and U.N. peacekeepers killed at least 22 Pakistani troops and as many as 23 Somalis.

The fighting crippled humanitarian efforts. Dozens of U.S. and Italian helicopters patrolled over Mogadishu Sunday. Few people were on the streets.

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Some U.N. officials spent Saturday night in their offices, trapped by fighting in the streets. Foreign aid workers said fresh attacks on U.N. forces were taken to them to Nairobi.

Several members of the Irish aid agency Concern also were leaving, and the International Agency Care moved six workers out of the city. Both agencies planned to operate with two people in Mogadishu until tension created by Saturday's eruption of violence subsides.

Pakistan demanded that the United Nations punish the Somali gunmen.

It accused the forces of Somalia's most powerful warlord, General Mohammad Farah Aideed of launching an "unprovoked attack" on Pakistani soldiers on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

(Continued on page 10)

U.N. calls for warlord's arrest

THE U.N. Security Council Sunday unanimously called for the arrest, prosecution and trial of those who killed U.N. peacekeepers in a new burst of weekend violence in Somalia.

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The Pakistani casualties, including at least 50 wounded, were among the heaviest ever suffered in the history of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Italian troops had to send a column of tanks and armoured cars with helicopter cover Saturday to rescue 80 trapped Somalis and 10 Americans from a disused cigarette factory.

Five Pakistani soldiers are still missing, the U.N. said. They are widely assumed to have been captured by Gen. Aideed's men.

Gen. Aideed's followers say, but the U.N. and the Pakistani government deny, that the flash-

Socialist win seen in Spain

MADRID (AP) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's ruling Socialists appeared to be heading to a narrow victory in general elections Sunday, apparently overcoming concerns about Spain's dismal economic performance and allegations of party corruption, according to initial exit polls.

The victory could signal a rejection of the centre-right Popular party, which for some Spaniards harks back to the days of long-time dictator Francisco Franco.

The Socialists, who appeared to be on their way to their fourth victory since coming to power in 1982, will garner some 37.74 per cent of the vote, 5.64 percentage points more than the Popular Party, according to a poll carried out for Spanish national radio and television.

The results would give the Socialists between 139 and 155 seats in the 350-seat lower house of parliament, which most likely would force Mr. Gonzalez to scuttle together a majority coalition with smaller regional parties or the communist-led United Left.

The Popular Party would obtain between 134 and 148 seats, according to the poll, which surveyed 250,000 voters who cast their

Middle East News

Reported, then denied CIA comments haunt Mubarak

By William C. Mann

The Associated Press

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak's government would rather the subject of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) would just go away. But it won't.

And the longer it lingers, the madder Egyptian officials get.

"This is much ado about nothing," Mr. Mubarak's spokesman, Mohammad Abd'ul Moneim, said Saturday about the controversy over "this dwarf called Sheikh Abdul Rahman."

The radical blind cleric is a sometime-preacher in a Jersey City, New Jersey. Some of his alleged followers face charges in the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre and the Immigration and Naturalization Service is trying to deport him. But he has requested political asylum in the United States.

The sheikh makes no secret he wants to see Mr. Mubarak overthrown and has predicted the president will be killed. For his part, Mr. Mubarak says at least publicly the sheikh is not worth worrying about.

On May 27, Al Gomhuria, a government newspaper in Cairo, reported that Mr. Mubarak identified Sheikh Omar as a CIA agent, living in the United States under the intelligence agency's protection. The same day, another Cairo daily published similar quotes.

Two days later, Al Gomhuria's editor retracted the story, saying he mistakenly attributed to the president comments by other people.

Presidential spokesman Abdul Moneim was exercised about an editorial in the New York Times on Friday that subtly accused the editor of lying to get the president out of jam with Washington.

Then on Saturday Ibrahim Se'da, editor of the million-circulation Akhbar Al Yom, got into the fray. Mr. Se'da published

Arabic translations of stories from the American publications Village Voice and the New Yorker alleging CIA ties with Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Mr. Se'da wrote that when those stories appeared, "there was absolute silence from all the departments of the U.S. administration." But let an Egyptian paper write the same thing, he wrote, and "this same silence became very noisy."

But the difference, of course, is that the Egyptian paper quoted Mr. Mubarak, president of a country where violence associated with extremist followers of the sheikh has killed more than 150 people in the past 18 months.

Mr. Mubarak's reported comments received wide media coverage in the United States, but Egyptian officials said there was no official protest from Washington.

"Official protests are made only over important issues," said Naby Al Ghafri, Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Two newspaper stories said Mr. Mubarak's comments were made to senior editors, writers and intellectuals. When the president talks with such people, presidential spokesman Abd'ul Moneim said, "he wants them to be candid."

"One of them started talking about what he had read in an American newspaper, that Abdul Rahman was in the CIA," Mr. Abd'ul Moneim said. "The president laughed, but he didn't comment. He said it's not an important issue."

That leaves the curious question of how two newspapers, Al Gomhuria and Al Ahram Al Mass'a'i, published by technically competing publishing houses, could make the same mistake in attribution.

Mr. Abd'ul Moneim said a reporter for Al Ahram Al Mass'a'i, an afternoon paper, saw Al Gomhuria, thought he had missed a story and copied the quotes.

While similar, the quotes were not identical.

Bombs defused in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Two home-made bombs were discovered behind a police station in a busy street at this Mediterranean city Saturday and experts defused them, a police official here said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said the bombs were in plastic bags wrapped by newspapers.

He said the bombs were Soviet made and most probably planted by Muslim extremists. He, however, said investigations are still in initial stages.

Muslim extremists exploded a bomb in a car parking behind a police station in a Cairo street May 21, killing seven people and wounding a dozen.

The course of events show that extremists time some of their

U.N. still concerned over Iraqi missile programme

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations remains concerned that an Iraqi ballistic missile programme might violate U.N. restrictions on Iraqi weaponry, a senior U.N. inspector said Sunday.

Nikita Smidovich of Russia, a senior inspector from the U.N. Special Commission (UNESCOM) in New York, told Reuters in an interview that the programme was so big that the United Nations would have to keep an eye on it.

Under U.N. Security Council resolutions passed after the Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq may not produce ballistic missiles with a range longer than 150 kilometres. It is now working on a missile which comes close to the limit.

"We are concerned this programme could be used for prohibited purposes. It is our responsibility... to prevent Iraq from doing that," Mr. Smidovich said.

"It has to be controlled, making sure no prohibited activity takes place there."

The extent of that programme forced us to do something. Now I guess we have a much fuller picture," he added.

Mr. Smidovich arrived in Baghdad Friday, accompanied by 15 weapons experts from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

It is the 57th U.N. inspection

team to go to Iraq to make sure it scraps any biological, chemical or nuclear weapons pro-

grammes it was working on before the Gulf war and that it does not resume work in any of these areas.

Before leaving Bahrain last week, Mr. Smidovich said the group would be concentrating on plants making liquid-fuel engines and on gyroscopes, devices which control the flight of missiles.

On Sunday he said they would survey and assess equipment and machine tools Iraq is using in the programme to make the short-range ballistic missiles.

In two previous visits this year, experts have examined solid-fuel missile systems and the research and development facilities for the missiles.

The United States is demanding the extradition of two Libyans it said were involved in the bombing. Libya is under a U.N. air-travel embargo because it refused to comply.

The pilgrimage also was condemned as a premature attempt by the unpredictable leader to recognise Israel before a peace accord between the Jewish state and the Arab countries is reached.

But the PLO representative in

Apart from monitoring, the team intended to inspect several declared and undeclared Iraqi weapons sites, he added.

"We are still looking for prohibited materials. We know something is wrong in certain areas," he said.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfay said 30 suspects were arrested.

Muslim extremists are waging a war of terror against Coptic Christians, police and foreign tourists. Their declared aim is to replace President Hosni Mubarak's secular government with an Iran-style theocracy.

killed and dozens wounded on Saturday during what the U.N. says was a routine inspection of a local militia weapons depot at an old tobacco factory on the western edge of the ruined capital, Mogadishu.

"They were picked off like rabbits. This will be seen as a big victory," said a foreigner working in the capital.

The Pakistanis had to be rescued by Italian troops serving in the 30-nation group. The Italians sent in a column of 12 tanks and six armoured cars to rescue 80 Pakistanis and 10 U.S. soldiers.

Three Americans were wounded in the battle. Hospitalised reported more than a dozen Somalis killed and scores injured.

Experts have been waiting for Somali gunmen to test the resolve of the U.N. since it took over control of the operation from United States forces just

over a month ago.

Admiral Jonathan Howe, the U.N.'s special envoy to Somalia, told Reuters on Sunday the attack "had been pre-conceived and planned."

He said it was one of the worst days in the history of U.N. intervention, but declined to draw on how the world body would respond.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"That's the problem. They talk tough but do nothing," said an aid worker with months of experience of Somalia. "They must hit back hard or go home. It is as simple as that."

General Mohammad Farah Aideed, the country's most powerful warlord, has skillfully exploited a deep distrust and dislike by many Somalis of the United Nations, blamed for

In recent weeks, U.N. troops have been accused to



TURKS ENRAGED: Angry protesters shout slogans against neo-Nazis in Germany demonstrate Saturday in the Turkish town of Tarsus. Five Turkish women and children were killed in an arson attack in Solingen blamed on neo-Nazis last week (AFP photo)

Libyan money stops PLO from denouncing Jerusalem pilgrimage

TUNIS (AP) — A monthly \$6 million subsidy from Libya has apparently prevented the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from officially condemning the pilgrimage by 198 Libyans to occupied Jerusalem last week.

Tripli told the PLO news agency WAFA on Wednesday that the anti-Qaddafi statements did not reflect the views of the organisation and lauded the Libyan leader as a staunch supporter of the Palestinians.

Also, Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political adviser, told the AP Saturday that the PLO had not denounced the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He praised Col. Qaddafi for his "generous and firm support for the Palestinians."

Referring to those who denounced Libya for the move, he said: "This is not the PLO position... these statements reflect the view of whoever made them."

Asked if the PLO objected to visits by Arabs to the occupied territories, he answered: "Every Arab and Muslim has a right to visit Jerusalem, which is the capital of Palestine."

Mr. Abu Sharif would not comment whether Libya's subsidy to the PLO was the reason the organisation did not oppose the pilgrimage.

The PLO is reeling from a financial crisis caused by a cutoff in aid from the Gulf states, who were angered by the organisation's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

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Home News

International award council meetings open

Prince Edward praises achievements of Crown Prince programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called on organisations concerned with development of human resources in Jordan and the Middle East to direct special attention to preparing youth and providing them with opportunities to contribute to the establishment of peace in the region.

Addressing the International Council Meeting of the International Award which started here Sunday were Prince Hassan and Prince Edward of England, the council's chairman.

In his address Prince Hassan said that youth under 18 years of age constitute 40 per cent of Jordan's population.

He noted that Jordan relies heavily on this sector of its population to contribute towards improving the quality of life, either through the Crown Prince Award or any other forums such as the Youth Parliament and sports activities.

The Crown Prince Award programme is open to all youth aged 14 to 25 to encourage them to participate in four extracurricular educational activities, namely services, skills, trips and sports activities.

The award encourages self-challenge and promotes participation rather than competition. It also provides an opportunity for disabled children to participate in the award activities.

The award seeks, among other



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Edward of England and participants Sunday begin

the International Council Meeting of the International Award in Amman hosted by the Crown Prince Award (Petra photo)

things, to strengthen the sense of belonging, enhance active participation and bridge the gap between the younger generations and adults.

Prince Hassan said these endeavours are mainly designed to provide a better world through the eyes of children.

As examples he cited the "Peace Child" play performed in Jordan and abroad, youth parliaments and other activities of the Crown Prince Award.

Prince Hassan said his participation in the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna within the next few days, will give him the opportunity to talk about such projects, which are based on common thinking, mutual interaction and participa-

tion.

He stressed that public participation is the corner stone of any efforts to establish mutual understanding among youth, adding that Jordan is doing every possible effort to ensure such participation and common understanding through two pioneering projects, namely the Islamic-Christian Dialogue and the Crown Prince Award.

He voiced appreciation for the selection of Jordan as the first and only Arab country to participate, along with 58 other countries, in the International Council Meeting of the International Award (better known as the Duke of Edinburgh Award).

In his address Prince Edward, himself a gold award recipient, thanked Prince Hassan for his participation in the council's meetings. The two-day meetings, hosted by the Crown Prince Award, will discuss the International Council's role and its plans for 1994, as well as the role of the regional offices in implementing future projects.

A major aim is to help promote and support the Crown Prince Award scheme in all its international dimensions.

Taking part in the meeting are 39 individuals representing 18 countries, including Jordan.

The International Council of the International Award was established in 1988 and includes 58 member states.

The council's Board of Trustees is chaired by Prince Philip and includes 10 members representing six different countries.

Conferees search for an 'Ammani' identity

By Sawsan Ghosbeh

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The absence of a distinct "Ammani" identity was one of the main themes of a conference Sunday, entitled "Amman: The City and Its Society."

The morning session, held at the University of Jordan, portrayed the history of Amman through literature. Panelists read from their own personal diaries and from 19th century English travel accounts, the rare primary sources that tell of the area's daily life.

Jean Hannover, Amman office director of CERMOC, the French Centre for Research on the Contemporary Middle East, said that although academic texts all seem to converge on the history of the city — an ancient abandoned site, the settlement of the Circassians, the foundation of the capital, an example of exceptional urban growth — more questions need to be answered about "who is Amman?"

The roots of modern Amman, according to Mustafa Hamarneh, professor of history at the University of Jordan, date back to 1878, when small groups of Circassians settled in what is today known as downtown Amman.

This new city, according to

Eugenio Rogan, professor of history at Oxford University, was chosen as the new capital, replacing Salt, to accompany the process of creating a new state. Amman, panelists concurred, grew on the shoulders of migrants, starting with Circassians

and later including Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and Armenians. The city was unable to melt the barriers of these communities and develop a distinct identity, they maintained.

Merchants played a significant role in the development of the city, panelists said.

Abla Amawi, professor of political science at Georgetown University, stressed that the growth of Amman as a metropolis is the story of the rise of the merchant class, the economically dominant sources that tell of the area's daily life.

Hani Al Hourani, director of the New Jordanian Research Centre spoke about "the geography of the old city because of the movement of commercial activities away from the downtown area," questioning the existence of a uniform identity for Amman.

Cultural centres, he said, have become more visible since the launching of the democratisation process. Unfortunately, Mr. Hourani added, most of these centres tend to be superfluous.

In addition, he indicated the gap between eastern and western Amman, in terms of the presence of cultural centres.

Mr. Hourani asserted that cultural centres are found in abundance in the western part of Amman, but are almost non-existent in the eastern part. Mosques, he added, tend to replace these centres in the east.

The evening session, entitled "The City Morphology and Ecology," further emphasised the difference between east and west Amman.

Elmar Ditzman, professor of architecture at the University of

Jordan, contrasted the densely populated, traditional, low-income eastern area to the less densely populated, international, high-income area of western Amman.

The increase in geographic size, creates a problem because it is growing beyond the available resources and results in part of the city losing touch with its base, he added.

The lack of an Ammani identity is also reflected in the city's architecture.

"The city has no architectural identity," said Ihsan Fethi, professor of architecture at the University of Jordan.

Houses in eastern Amman, tend to be similar, traditional and pay little attention to style, partly because of the lack of financial ability, he said.

But, Dr. Fethi added homes in western Amman represent a variety of styles, some imitating Western architecture and others emphasising Islam architecture, depending on the image the owners want to portray of themselves.

He concluded by saying that "Amman needs more housing than houses;" it needs an efficient public transportation system more than individual vehicles; it needs collective work and a sense of belonging to combat the high level of individualism among Jordanians.

The conference continues through Tuesday discussing the role of the family in urbanisation; the use of urban space and architectural vernacular; urban space and social groups; the economy and society of the city; and politics and policies in Amman.

Railway plans to transport 4.5m tonnes of phosphate to Aqaba for export, yearly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Railway Corporation, which last year transported 2,850,388 tonnes of phosphate from the mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba for export by sea, plans to raise the figure to 4.5 million tonnes annually according to a corporation spokesman Sunday.

The increase is expected to follow the implementation of several projects and the renewal of rails to ensure speedy delivery to Aqaba harbour, said the spokesman.

As part of the projected plans, the corporation has already bought 90 trucks to transport additional quantities of phosphate, and has offered a tender to a local firm for the maintenance of rails and locomotives at Aqaba-based workshops, noted the spokesman.

The corporation has so far relied on 39 diesel-powered

locomotives, each attached to 34 compartments or cars, and on 300 trucks to help transport the mineral to Aqaba.

Along the line which connects

the network of rails from the

mines to the port lie 18 stations

supplied with technical team and equipment to control and direct the trains and ensure safety on the way, the spokesman added.

He said the corporation is currently reviewing studies on laying a new 49-kilometre railway line linking the present network with the Shidieh mines at an estimated cost of JD 50 million.

The new lines are deemed necessary to meet the growing international demand for Jordanian phosphate, which is currently transported to Asian, African and European countries.

The railway linking the mines with the Aqaba port was laid in the early 1960s. The 292-kilometre network links Al Has-

Delegations leave for multilateral water talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the Middle East multilateral peace talks on water Sunday left Amman for Vienna to participate in the talks which will open there Monday.

The three-day meetings will discuss issues related to water in desert and semi-arid areas in the Middle East.

The delegation is headed by Mahmoud Al Duweiri and includes Ali Eghzawi and Akram Al Juneidi.

Also Sunday, the Palestinian delegation to the water talks left Amman for Vienna.

Riyadh Al Husari, who is heading the Palestinian team told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that more than 20 countries will take part in the meetings which were convened by the Austrian government upon a recommendation by the Middle East multilateral working group on water last September in Washington.

Dr. Husari said the Palestinian delegation will present a working paper on means of reaching the highest levels of agricultural productivity in Palestine by using less irrigation water.

He said the committee achieved nothing since its first meeting in May, 1992 because of Israel's refusal to allow a delegation from the committee to visit the occupied territories.

The Qatari delegation was led by Seif Ali Kuwari, assistant under secretary to the Ministry of Education, who paid tribute to Jordanian teachers working in his country.

These teachers, he said, present an excellent performance and are offering a unique service to Qatar.

Dr. Omari underlined Jordan's keenness to bolster ties with Arab states in educational and cultural fields.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Shukrallah Fatouh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabataba at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by more than 40 plastic artists from Iraq at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Scenes from Palestine" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Marianne Naerobout at the British Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarvath opens abstract exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassam Sunday opened a joint art exhibition by Doudi Tabba and Nawal Kattan. On display at the French Cultural Centre are 90 abstract drawings by the two artists. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Buchard.

Government, public offices to close Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed Thursday June 10 in observance of the anniversaries of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day in Jordan. The announcement came via an official communiqué from the Prime Minister's office Sunday.

Labour group leaves for Copenhagen talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions left Sunday for Copenhagen on a week-long visit to Denmark at the invitation of the Danish Labour Unions. The delegation, which led by Khaled Shireen, the federation's secretary general, will meet with labour union leaders in Denmark and discuss cooperation between the two sides in the exchange of expertise in labour related affairs.

Centre plans summer programmes for children

IRBID (Petra) — The Princess Basma Social and Community Centre which is affiliated to the Queen Alia Fund (QAF) has announced plans to organise cultural and sports programmes for the benefit of 150 children within the Irbid governorate. A spokesman said that children, aged 7 to 12, will profit from the programmes which include music lessons. QAF instructors will supervise the programmes which will last two months.

PSD reports 176 crimes for last week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday reported a drop in the number of reported crimes committed in the Kingdom last week. A total of 176 crimes of various kinds and levels were reported, registering a decline of 8.3 per cent over the previous week said a PSD statement. Only one murder was reported, but there were 112 robberies and thefts, 88 per cent of which have been solved. The other cases included three smuggling operations, six car thefts, one suicide, 12 fraud cases and 19 moral offenses.

Azerbaijani minister due in Amman for tourism talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism in Azerbaijan Ali Askar is due here Tuesday on a visit to Jordan. The minister, who will be accompanied by an official delegation, is expected to hold talks with Jordanian officials on cooperation in tourism.

Tafleeh to fight stray dogs problem

TAFLEEH (Petra) — The local public safety committee announced here Sunday that a large-scale campaign to deal with the stray dogs will start on June 15 in Tafleeh governorate. The announcement was made following a committee meeting which reviewed recent reports about the noticeable increase in the number of stray dogs.

Minister reviews secondment of teachers

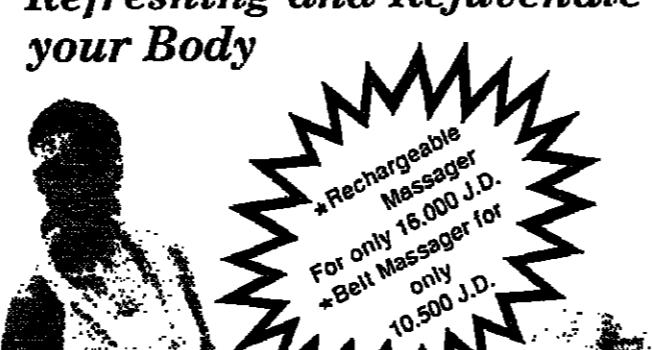
AMMAN (Petra) — An education delegation from Qatar Sunday met in Amman with Education and Higher Education Minister Khaled Al Omari to discuss the secondment of Jordanian teachers to Qatar.

The Qatari delegation was led by Seif Ali Kuwari, assistant under secretary to the Ministry of Education, who paid tribute to Jordanian teachers working in his country.

These teachers, he said, present an excellent performance and are offering a unique service to Qatar.

Dr. Omari underlined Jordan's keenness to bolster ties with Arab states in educational and cultural fields.

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NOTICE FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF TURNKEY BIDDERS FOR INDO-JORDAN CHEMICALS CO., LTD. AQABA STORAGE TERMINAL

Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co., Ltd. (IJC) is setting up a phosphoric acid complex at Eshdya in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The acid produced in the complex is to be transported to IJC's storage terminal at Aqaba from where it is to be exported.

The storage terminal at Aqaba is to be constructed on a fixed lumpsum turnkey basis and the work involves residual engineering, procurement of equipment and instruments, fabrication of storage tanks, associated piping, electrical and instrumentation work as well as civil works like levelling of the plot, foundations, buildings, piperacks, approach and internal roads and fencing of this storage terminal.

As part of the evaluation process, IJC as a first step are prequalifying suitable turnkey bidders who are capable of doing this type of a work. In this connection, a prequalification document outlining the site location, brief technical details and scope of the work to be done, the commercial condition to be adhered to, the schedule of completion and the documentation to be submitted by the turnkey bidder for prequalification has been prepared.

Turnkey bidders may note that their reply should be submitted to IJC with all particulars as requested in the prequalification document on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 15, 1993.

It is to be clearly understood that the final decision with regard to prequalification rests with IJC and that only prequalified turnkey bidders will be issued with the relevant bidding document prepared by IJC containing all the necessary details for the bidder to prepare and submit their offer.

Interested turnkey bidders may obtain a copy of this document on payment by cash of JD 100 from the chief administration and personnel manager, IJC, 3rd floor - Delmon Building, P.O.Box 926787, Amman on any working day till June 15, 1993.

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Untimely and insensitive decision

KUWAIT'S DECISION to end its boycott of Israel is wrong on two counts: First, by unilaterally ending its traditional boycott of the Jewish state without prior consultation with the Arab countries, and without going through the proper Arab channel, the Arab League, the Kuwaiti leadership is in effect boycotting the Arab World and all that it stands for. Second, this seemingly gratuitous Kuwaiti step attempts to unravel the Arab reasoning and justification for imposing the 42-year-old Arab boycott.

It must be realised that the Arab boycott of Israel was adopted collectively by the Arab governments more than four decades ago. It is a well-known fact that what brought about the unified Arab stand was the Israeli aggression not only against the Palestinians but also against the neighbouring Arab states. A state of war between Israel and several Arab countries ensued and remains in place in spite of the passage of more than forty years. It would seem more sensible and logical to start thinking in terms of terminating this collective Arab policy only after the existing state of war comes to an end and not before. After all, the basic feature of a state of war between two or more states is a halt of any exchange, especially trade.

Equally disturbing is Kuwait's deliberate decision to break ranks with its closest Arab allies and friends in the Gulf. Had the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) taken a decision to the effect of opening a new chapter with Israel, one might have understood the precipitous Kuwaiti decision. The effect of the matter is that none of the other members of the GCC has endorsed the Kuwaiti initiative and none is expected to do so before the bilateral and multilateral peace talks register meaningful results.

The least that the Arab peoples would expect from their governments is to trade off the contentious Arab boycott with Israel with at least an equally valuable quid pro quo from Israel. To offer an end to Arab boycott on a silver platter in a rather gratuitous way is not exactly commendable or even good business. Israel must offer the Arab side something tangible before the Arab World can bring down the curtain on the 42-year-old Arab boycott.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARAB foreign ministers' meeting in Amman Sunday to unite the Arab countries' stand vis-a-vis the peace process is a clear sign to the world and the United States that the Arab parties are keen on pursuing efforts leading to peace, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The meeting is bound to end with an unanimous decision to participate in the 13th session in Washington despite the previous setbacks, predicted the daily. The meeting here is an indication that the Arabs are searching for a way that would result in the restoration of their nation's rights and lost homeland, but it is up to the world community in general and the United States in particular to see to it that U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab rights are implemented, demanded the daily. The paper said that the United States, which had claimed it would play the role of full partner, has also announced it would not be lenient with any party that might take a hostile course to peace. What the Arabs expect from Washington now, said the paper, is a translation of intentions into actions, not words, and a meaningful action to force the Israelis to comply with U.N. resolutions and respect the Palestinians' human rights.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shabab daily dwelt on the ethnic violence in Germany and the general hostile attitude in the West against the Muslims of Europe. Salameh Ekous said that encouraged by the ongoing aggression on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is being condoned by the West, the Germans are now turning their guns on the Muslim Turks. The writer said that a campaign is under way in Germany, France and the United Kingdom to stem the presence of Muslims in Europe, directing its wrath, in the first place, against the Muslim workers in these countries. The neo-Nazis in Germany are following in the footsteps of the barbaric Serbs who are killing the Muslims of former Yugoslavia, charged the writer. He said that this brutal attack against the Muslims of Europe, and the ethnic cleansing operations, constitute the worst kind of racial and religious discriminations, an affront to mankind and a flagrant violation of human rights. What is surprising here is to see Turkey not lifting a finger or expressing protest against this genocide and not moved by the terrorist campaigns against the Muslim people of Europe in continent, said the writer. The tragedy of the Muslim people in Europe, he added, underlines the fact that the Western countries are totally committed to eradicate the Muslim people and this calls for a reappaisal of Islamic countries' relations with the Western world.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Premier is here to stay

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali's government has been described by many observers as simply a caretaker or an interim government with specific mandates and a short agenda. A closer look at the background of the events, both domestic and regional, would give another interpretation to the mission of the new government.

To begin with, even though the mandate of the government appears to be concise and limited, its nature and implications are indeed overwhelming. Take for example the obvious agenda of Dr. Majali's cabinet. Many people here in Jordan and abroad view the obvious and unequivocal commitment of Dr. Majali to the peace process and his not so clear commitment to change the electoral law in the country as two separate issues. The fact of the matter is that both items are organically linked and affect each other.

There is no way that Jordanians would have the opportunity to exercise judgment on any peace accord that would be negotiated with Israel in the future peace rounds unless there is a parliament that truly represents them and their thoughts and aspirations. Against such a backdrop, amending the existing laws on elections in Jordan is a sine qua non to any future endorsement of any breakthrough attained in the Jordanian-Israeli track.

What is most interesting about this new government is the personal profile of Dr. Majali himself. Often described by people who know him best as a no-nonsense person, this trait would be only one of the positive features of the man. I heard him make a speech before His Majesty King Hussein some twenty years ago when he was the head of the Armed Forces medical corps. It was so different in style and content that I immediately thought it was

only a matter of time before Dr. Majali would become a prime minister. When he finally made it a few days ago, my only surprise was that it took so long to recruit this man for a leadership post in the country.

Being a scientist, Dr. Majali tends to be precise, pragmatic and direct to the point of bluntness. Many Jordanians feel that the country needs such a man not only for a temporary period but for a longer time.

It is doubtful that Dr. Majali would be jettisoned soon after November, especially if he personally succeeds in steering the Kingdom onto the right path.

I cannot understand the wisdom of letting a man change the electoral law and pursue peace with Israel on just and comprehensive terms if he is destined to be dumped soon after such objectives are attained or nearly achieved. Therefore, I am one of those minority groups who project that Dr. Majali is no five-month-term prime minister but rather a man who will end what he is embarking on.

In the course of this year, we may look for one or two major reshuffles in Majali's cabinet. I personally expect him to stick around for a couple of years at least.

If the peace process registers meaningful advancement in the upcoming few months, then this projection can be expected to solidify even more. But whatever happens in the future internally or externally, it would be naive to think of Dr. Majali's government as only a caretaker government. Had this been the intention of His Majesty King Hussein, he would have picked another kind of man for the job.

Why I want to rule Russia

By Alexander Rutskoi

WHY DO I want to run for president of Russia against Boris Yeltsin? Because someone must prevent him and the pseudo-democrats he surrounds himself with from seizing the destiny of my country. These men are not democrats, but have compromised the entire democratic idea.

The main idea of democracy is not equality, but equal rights under the law. Under such a system, everyone in society would be subject to the rule of law — including a president who seems to think he can continue to violate the constitution without end, and including those in his immediate circle who have been touched by corruption.

As a result of the mishandling of political and economic reform by the pseudo-democrats, Russia today is in state of absolute wild instability. According to a recent international study, only a year and a half ago, Russia ranked 20th in the world in terms of financial reliability and political risk; now we are ranked at 149. My chief task as I now see it is to help consolidate our society so that we can leave this ramshackle reality behind us.

The bungled approach to economic reform, which has proceeded without first establishing a legal basis for privatisation, has caused vast and rapid widening discrepancies in wealth, feeding corruption and crime. It is the catalyst of the criminal underworld.

Clamping down with force on crime is, in the end, useless without the established rule of law. The well-being of a society ultimately depends on to what degree the laws are observed by its citizens.

Especially in our foreign economic activities, the criminal situation is getting out of control. Hard currency is flowing out to foreign banks and Russian assets are being sold off illegally and for peanuts. It is like a one-way street — everything from Russia, nothing for Russia.

Yet the warnings I have given to President Yeltsin remain unheeded. It is conceivable that an American president might receive frequent reports from his vice-president that there is growing corruption in the highest echelons of power, yet do absolutely nothing? What can it mean when the president sets up a commission to fight corruption and crime, of which I am a member, and then forbids his aides to pass to me documents detailing, for example, corruption in the armed forces of the

western region?

The president has now ordered a search to determine who is leaking information to the commission. Can it be that the corruption issue is not now being widely discussed because the actual circle of the president has been touched? I have no right to speak of someone's guilt. That is up to the courts. But very interesting material is in my possession that may well come in handy. If I or anyone from my secretariat loses even one hair, all these materials will immediately be made public.

From this perspective it pains my soul when the United States and European states say: "We support Boris Yeltsin because there is no alternative." The people of Russia are tired of having

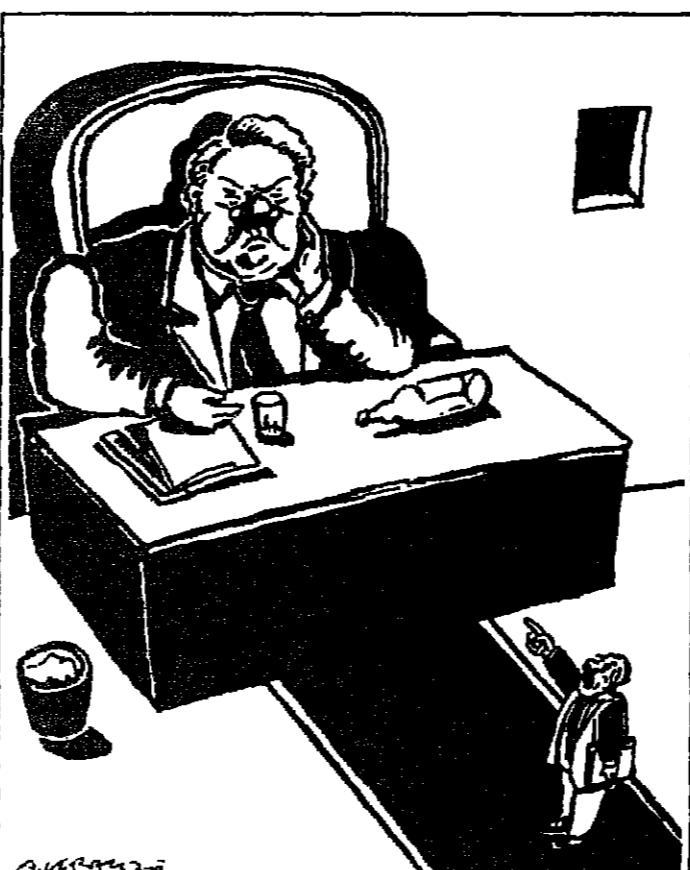
no alternatives. We had no alternative to Gorbachev, no alternative to Brezhnev, no alternative to Stalin and no alternative to Lenin. And why? Because we did not have the rule of law.

It is hard to understand the support of the West for Boris Yeltsin, a man who continually violates the constitution and whose policies are leading to the absolute decay and destruction of the country's economy. This policy of the West is unnecessarily creating resentment among the majority of the Russians who don't support the president's policies.

In other democratic states, wouldn't a new constitution need to be drawn up with the parliament in a civilised manner, not produced all of a sudden from behind a corner? What sort of democracy is this that the West is so wholeheartedly promoting in Russia?

In what other democracy would you find a situation where the president or his ministers are required by law to report to the

"In other democratic states, wouldn't a new constitution need to be drawn up with the parliament in a civilised manner, not produced all of a sudden from behind a corner? What sort of democracy is this that the West is so wholeheartedly promoting in Russia?"



Germany's Social Democrats go public with leadership battle

By Kevin Liffey
Reuter

ESSEN, Germany — The smell and razzmatazz may be missing but there is a hint of the American primary in the way Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are looking for a new leader.

The centre-left party, leaderless and down in the opinion polls, has opted for the first time to open up the smoke-filled rooms and let its members vote for their next leader.

With 875,000 members to be canvassed, the candidates have suddenly had to go out beating the drum for themselves in a wide-open race where the clutched old rules no longer apply.

"Don't kid yourselves, the only way to reach most party members is through television," Gerhard Schroeder, 49-year-old premier of Lower Saxony state, told a rally when more traditional SPD members accused him of self-promotion.

"Anybody who says different is exaggerating the impact of our

party newspaper."

Mr. Schroeder was campaigning in the SPD region around Essen, in the Ruhr Valley heartland of Germany's heavy industry, a traditional stronghold for the party's trade union wing.

With 100,000 members, the Western Westphalian region is in SPD terms what California is to any U.S. presidential candidate — the big prize.

Mr. Schroeder's brash style is tailored to appeal to both the cameras and the local blue-collar audience in the same hall where the party assembly picks its leader on June 25.

It could not be further from the stiff and grey image of his main rival, Rhineland-Palatinate state Premier Rudolf Schapring, who whipped up little enthusiasm at his own Ruhr Area rally in Dortmund earlier in the week.

"Schapring moves around his own office so discreetly he could be a visitor," the weekly newspaper Die Woche wrote.

But 45-year-old Schapring, who stands to the right of Mr. Schroeder, has the ear of the party leadership and some com-

mentators are calling him the favourite.

His strength is in using his aura of integrity to forge consensus at local committee meetings and in contacts with churches, unions and universities.

"We won't get unity if politicians only talk to each other. The people must be brought into the discussion...this has all been neglected up till now," he told the news weekly Focus.

When Joern Engholm resigned as party leader over a six-year-old political scandal in early May, Mr. Schapring was addressing a local school on "violence and racism."

By contrast Mr. Schroeder, never one to dodge confrontation, had staked a claim to the succession even before Mr. Engholm quit.

Many SPD members, including most of the leadership, barely concealed their distaste. But they are asking themselves if they can afford to elect someone as stiff and untelegenic as Mr. Schapring.

"Schapring is colourless and

Schroeder is power-crazy — but the way things are now, I'd rather have the latter," said local party member Rainer Murschan at the Essen rally. "We need someone with the power to pull the cart out of the mud."

"We have to have someone to identify with who will square up to the government," added SPD member Klaus-Peter Regiani.

For many in the SPD, one answer to Mr. Schapring's lack of charisma could be a double ticket, with the controversial but undeniably charismatic Saarland Premier Oskar Lafontaine as challenger to topple Chancellor Helmut Kohl in next year's general election.

Many members still hanker for the sharp-tongued Lafontaine, an ideological maverick in the SPD, to take a lead role in spite of suffering a heavy defeat when he stood against Mr. Kohl in the 1990 election.

Mr. Lafontaine would like to be challenger but is not running for chairman. Mr. Schapring has been cagey on whether, as chairman, he would ask his friend and

ally to stand against Mr. Kohl. Mr. Schapring, on the other hand, has no time for Mr. Lafontaine and insists he will only accept the party leadership if he is also made SPD candidate for the chancellorcy — a decision the party is due to make later this year.

Some SPD members say: "Mr. Schapring's unashamed desire to hold all the reins could cost him members' votes."

"If Lafontaine were sure to run for chancellor under Schapring, it would certainly lessen Schapring's chances of becoming chairman," said Mr. Regiani.

For all Mr. Schapring's blunt talk, he still arouses more suspicions among party members than Mr. Schapring.

"Schapring can be an unashamed populist. Here in the Ruhr, he's telling them just what they want to hear, that East German rebuilding mustn't be at the expense of industry suffering in the west," Mr. Regiani said.

Unlike Mr. Schapring, Mr. Schapring is widely credited with deep sympathy for East Germany's problems. He told Focus

Germany — the grandchildren need new politics

By Hanns W. Maull

TRIER, Germany — When the Berlin wall came down and the Soviet empire started to collapse, the western countries became victims of the illusion. They watched the Warsaw Pact and Comecon going down the drain, communist parties disintegrating and regimes crumbling, and they observed, stunned, as the Soviet Union disappeared with a whimper rather than a bang. They looked at all this as if from a firm base.

In fact, the very forces that tore into the East's ossified political structures and its military and economic alliances were also chipping away at the political foundations of the West.

— German parties have become more like the society they represent — unruly, divisive, complex and immobile. The task of pulling divergent strands together and mobilising competing ideas, forces and personalities around a unified agenda and a core group of leaders has become Herculean. The glue of common conviction that makes parties effective has weakened. Strong personalities alone cannot compensate for this lack.

— In any case, the right personalities may not be available. The talents and skills needed to rise within modern party structures differ more and more from the talents and skills need to lead those same parties, and ship of state. A career as a professional politician in today's Germany involves the ability to strike compromises, to find common denominators, to secure support from divergent sources — in short, to be everybody's darling, or a superior manipulator of a large number of levers of power.

One of the most striking aspects of this strain is the shortage of political leaders in the successor generation. The political "grandchildren" of Konrad Adenauer and Willy Brandt have had a hard time surviving, let alone thriving. Earlier this month came to two major resignations in five days: those of Björn Engholm, leader of the opposition Social Democrats, who gave up all his party positions after admitting to having lied to a parliamentary committee of inquiry; and of Günther Krause, transport minister and one of the few political talents from the former East Germany to survive in Bonn. He was forced to step down after repeatedly using his political positions for personal advantage.

These resignations tell only part of the story. Mr. Krause was the eighth minister to leave the Kohl cabinet in 13 months; other leading political figures have been damaged, sometimes irredeemably. These include Defense Minister Volker Rühe, a Christian Democrat once considered a leading contender to someday succeed Helmut Kohl. He has been seriously damaged by turmoil over the restructuring of the armed forces, and by his failed efforts to withdraw from (or redefine) the horribly expensive joint European Fighter Aircraft project.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, of the Free Democrats, who is to take over leadership of his small party soon, has seen his reputation shaken by his handling of the issue of Bundeswehr participation in U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping operations. Doubts have arisen about his ability to shoulder the twin burdens of foreign minister and party leader. Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democratic candidate for the chancellorcy in 1990, has been

that "no politician should suggest that 'no unemployment in the Ruhr...' is in some way different from unemployment in Saxony or Thuringia," referring to two hard-hit eastern states.

Such comments have earned Mr. Schapring the support of SPD members in the east. But there are only 26,000 there and Mr. Schapring realises they are insignificant compared with his Ruhr audience.

Unlike an American party convention, the party assembly in June will not be bound by the result of the members' ballot but both candidates have said they will abide by the result.

Features

U.N. head calls for concrete steps to protect planet

ESCWA press release

Following is the text of the message delivered by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June:



Boutros Ghali

Last June, in Rio de Janeiro, the largest ever gathering of world leaders explicitly acknowledged that protection of our common environment is an urgent requirement and that continued destruction of our environment can no longer be tolerated.

After years of environmental neglect, the crisis facing us has now been recognised. There is a new awareness of the peril in which we have already placed ourselves and of the danger towards which we are rapidly heading.

If we are to succeed in preserving a viable planet for future generations, cooperation and commitment must now characterise our efforts.

The challenges that confront us are increasingly being measured in global rather than in national terms. Environmental destruc-

tion or harm in one country—depletion of the ozone layer, destruction of the world's forests, the spread of dangerous toxins and contaminants—affects the health of the entire planet.

At Rio, in a consensus unique in the history of international relations, the world's leaders agreed on the steps that now must

be taken. "Agenda 21" outlines a plan and a concrete approach to creating environmentally sound and sustainable development.

In concrete and practical terms, sustainable development means a commitment to finding and using resources that are renewable and a more careful management of those resources that are non-renewable. It means choosing products and production processes that avoid an adverse impact on the environment. It means a greater willingness by business to take environmental factors into account. It means respecting biological diversity in agriculture, and avoiding the excessive use of harmful, energy intensive chemicals. It means eliminating public subsidies that encourage the liquidation of our natural environmental heritage. It means addressing the acute poverty that leads parents to wish for ever more children as a buffer against the insecurities of old age. It means using preventive diplomacy to avoid the destruction of war and the waste engendered in the preparation for war.

elaborately-coiffed women with portable phones and high heels, tawny businessmen with diamond watches, sideburns and pagers.

The hope is to broaden the market base.

Katherine Bao, president of the new Sunrise department store in Shanghai, said her 900,000 joint-venture store was aimed at mid-income shoppers looking for a break from the crowds, noise and slack service of state department stores.

"In Chinese stores, sometimes you cannot move there are so many people. Here, we stress service."

People begin waiting outside Sunrise long before the doors open for business, eager to begin poring over a stock selection ranging from pricey imported cosmetics to made-in-China baby strollers and colourful cups and dishes.

At the Orient Shopping Centre, where items like the Gucci bag are for sale, a grand piano on a fur-topped dais in the lobby indicates the market is upscale.

"We want to stock the best things available in Shanghai," said Deputy General Manager Li Weimin. "It is taking a while for society to understand us."

Though Mao-suited local tourists seem to outnumber the true big-spenders cruising Orient's aisles, the store has still racked up sales of about 100 million yuan (\$17.5 million) since it opened in late January.

With more international shopping giants swinging plate glass doors open to Shanghai shoppers, Staid state stores are trying to catch up.

Just across the street from Orient, Shanghai Number Eight department store has its own new shopping centre complete with escalators and a supermarket.

The city's television viewers are deluged with peppy rap-style advertisements urging the youth market to look for what it wants at the venerable Number Seven department store.

"This has all been a big challenge," said Mr. Jiang of the consumer news. "Our consumer level is still quite low, and it is going to take time to mature."

While better-off than most of China, the average Shanghai worker still gets paid about 600 yuan (\$105) per month, meaning most can only stare enviously at the luxury displays.

Inflation, too, is a worry. The very economic reforms which

have been implemented have

led to a rise in prices, particularly in foodstuffs.

But the government has

been able to keep inflation

under control, and the

country's economy is

now growing at a rate of

about 8 percent a year.

Most of the serious shoppers

now are members of China's hot-

shot new entrepreneurial class:

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- University degree
 - Shorthand
 - Good command of the English language
 - Minimum two years experience
 - Experience in using computers.
- Interested applicants, please send your C.V.s which will be kept in strict confidence.

Jordan—a wisely governed country that sets an example and gives hope

Following is an article by Australian Anne Fairbairn reproduced from the Sydney-based newspaper *The Arab World*.

village and town and many in the cities, and there are a number of universities, as well as a network of modern highways.

As a westerner who has read fairly widely about the history of the Arabs I am acutely aware of the betrayal of the Arabs by the West after World War I.

The Arabs had joined forces with the British to oust the Turks in June 1916, after they had been assured they would be helped to establish an independent Arab state.

But the carving up of Arab lands after the war, compounded by the 1917 Balfour declaration, proved to be a double betrayal.

Winston Churchill, as British colonial secretary, called the Cairo Conference in 1921 to determine the future status of the liberated territories in the Arab world.

Jordan has a particular place in my heart because in 1980 it was one of the first Arab countries I visited. I have no reason to change my first impression that it is a wisely governed country.

On several subsequent visits, I have made many friends, explored Petra—"the rose red city old as time"—Jerash, the most ancient provincial Roman city in the Middle East and the Arab castles in the desert.

I have given talks (about Australian poetry) in the universities of Yarmouk and Jordan and I have splashed with other poets in boats at Aqaba after reciting poetry at the Jerash Festival. Each time I have visited Jordan, I have been aware of the love and respect Jordanians feel for their King and the happy atmosphere of the place.

One former Australian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Terry Goggin, said to me recently "Living in Amman is like living in Canberra. It is very relaxed."

On my first visit to Jordan in 1980, it was explained to me that when King Hussein came to power in 1953, there was only one high school (in Salt) in the country and three primary schools, and the road system was very limited.

But the King had a vision for his country and brought about dramatic change.

There are now schools in every

sensibly taking into account the new political and demographic facts which have come into existence over the past 70 years.

King Hussein is keeping faith with the noble spirit of his great-grandfather and the ideals of the Arab Revolt by wisely leading his fellow Arabs along an evolutionary, non-confrontational path towards long awaited lives of Jordan.

I have been visiting the Arab World for 13 years and I have made friends in all the countries I have visited, and I believe I have come to understand the people and some of the problems they are facing.

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industry is assisting Jordan increase its capacity to process sheep, thereby enhancing Australia's export industry.

Two Australian companies, Wellard Rural Exports and Fares Rural Meat and Livestock with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC), are sharing the costs of refurbishing the country's largest sheepmeat chiller, in Amman.

Australia is expected to fund an abattoir consultant to undertake pre-design work for a new abattoir in Amman.

Richard Martin, AMLC senior officer for livestock marketing explained to me that "as well as helping Australian sheep exports, Australian involvement in this early phase of the abattoir construction opens up opportunities for our engineering and equipment supply companies.

I understand the Hashemite family was the first ruling family to initiate a constituent assembly in the area and I am confident that Jordan's simultaneous pursuit of democracy and peace can be fully managed.

Arabs agree with Palestinian-American Professor Edward Said that "the United States never supports any struggle for democracy in the area". (Some may disagree).

But his observation is understandable as Palestinians struggle for a democratic, autonomous state in a portion of what was their former homeland.

Certainly, the United States under the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, established the right to national self-determination, which led to the formation of Arab modern sovereign states; it was also Woodrow Wilson who stated in an address to Congress in 1917 that "the world must be made safe for democracy".

Western support is essential as Jordanian valiantly struggles towards peace and as the King urges his political groupings towards real parliamentary democracy.

This year, Australia expects to export 450,000 sheep to Jordan. These will consist of specified lambs and hoggets with an average weight of 40 kilos; this amounts to about \$12.5 million.

In a letter to the mayor of Amman, AMLC Chairman Dick Austen said Australia's gift of the chiller to Amman was a demonstration of our commitment to Jordan, and the excellent developing trade relations between the two countries.

The ambassador explained that at the onset of the Gulf war "the King was adamant that Arab problems must find Arab solutions; we must solve our own problems."

Early in October this year, there will be a joint Trade Fair held in Amman, in which companies from Australia and New Zealand will be able to exhibit their products. Also Royal Jordanian (RJ) has secured permission

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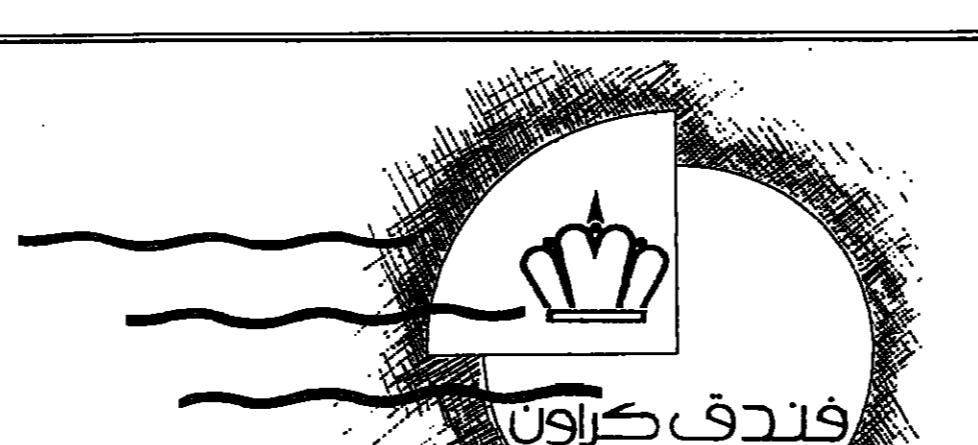
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- University degree
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Interested applicants, please send your C.V.s which will be kept in strict confidence.

Economy

China orders banks to cool economic 'chaos'

HONG KONG (Agencies) — China, worried that finance is spinning out of control, has ordered banks to reign in credit, stop engaging in business and pay peasants for their summer harvest, a pro-Beijing newspaper has said.

The front-page article in the Wen Wei Po was one of the clearest signs yet that the top ranks of power in Beijing fear the economy is overheating.

The report, quoting unidentified leaders, said banks were overextended. They had used credit to fuel booms in property and share markets and spent vital funds setting up their own firms, it said.

"The financial order is chaotic," the paper said.

Reforms of finance and banking in China have failed to keep step with breakneck growth. Banks have to prop up inefficient state-run firms and do not have enough autonomy to allow interest rates to regulate supply and demand for loans.

Sixteen per cent inflation in cities during the first quarter of this year spurred depositors to withdraw savings and buy gold and consumer durables. Last week, the Wen Wei Po said bank deposits fell 4.5 billion yuan (\$850 million) in March.

The new regulations order

banks to recover funds earmarked for major state-approved construction projects and agriculture.

"Even though the financial situation is quite serious at the moment funds for agriculture and the summer harvest must be guaranteed," the newspaper said.

Cash demands on banks are most acute in July, when the crops are harvested and the state has to pay for what it contracted farmers to plant. Last year, farmers in southwest China's Sichuan province smashed government offices when banks paid IOUs instead of cash, and Beijing is worried about peasant unrest again this year.

The newspaper said banks also are prohibited from engaging in business and must shut down their companies, which have eaten up large amounts of capital.

Senior leaders also said a rush to set up development zones had drained funds out of banks and into unprofitable fixed capital investments, the newspaper said.

Since senior leader Deng Xiaoping gave the green light to faster economic growth in early 1992, about 9,000 development zones have sprung up across the country. The zones have fuelled the property boom and contributed to rocketing prices for con-

struction materials.

In a separate article, the Wen Wei quoted Xiao Haikuan, a senior official at the People's Bank of China, as saying banks were guilty of financing development zones with irregular loans.

"Bank loans have risen, but deposits have dropped. This has led to credit inflation, loan inflation and rising prices," he said.

Mr. Xiao also said raising interest rates could not effectively rein in credit or cool local officials' enthusiasm for breakneck growth.

"Local areas are developing with great vigour and they are not ready to admit that they are overheated, they just think other areas are overheated."

Mr. Xiao said the erroneous belief that the value of the Chinese currency will drop after China joins the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had exacerbated a loss in its value. The Chinese yuan dropped to more than 10 yuan to one U.S. dollar last week at official currency exchange markets.

"The people who hold this opinion are throwing away their (yuan) and hoarding dollars," he said.

China has ruled out a drastic devaluation of the official yuan exchange rate for the yuan tumbling across the country. In Shanghai Friday,

rumours of plans to abolish foreign exchange certificates (FEC) for foreigners.

An official with the State Administration of Exchange Control (SAEC) said last week's move to lift price ceilings at foreign exchange swap centres — which led to a sharp drop of the yuan against the dollar on those markets — did not mean Beijing was planning further major currency adjustments.

"The abolition of the price ceiling is only a normal operation in the market," the unnamed official was quoted by Sunday's China Daily as saying. "So people should not be surprised at the measure or make groundless speculation."

China's currency has been under heavy pressure on the black market due to fears of inflation and a heavy demand for dollars created by a sharp rise in imports.

The SAEC on June 1 lifted rate ceilings on foreign exchange swap markets, which businesses use to balance foreign exchange needs, ending controls imposed in February to try to stem a de facto devaluation of the Chinese yuan against the dollar.

The move sent the swap centre rate for the yuan tumbling across the country. In Shanghai Friday,

it ended at a new low of 10.3160 to the dollar from 10.2310. The rate was 9.999 in Beijing and at the SAEC headquarters.

China's official exchange rate for the yuan held steady on Sunday at 5.6957.

The SAEC official said the yuan's drop against the dollar swap centre trading was temporary and predicted rates would soon stabilise closer to the official rate than to current lows.

"The official rate at present reflects the real value of the renminbi (yuan), while the rising swap market rates are abnormal," the official was quoted as saying.

"The price of the dollar in the markets will gradually reach a reasonable level and the value of the renminbi will stabilise."

The official said the decision to free the swap markets, which was not officially announced, was aimed at limiting speculation in foreign exchange.

He said that the government reserved the right to intervene in the market again, "although he ruled out the possibility that it would occur in the near future," the China Daily said.

Both the setting and the abolition of the price ceiling are aimed at helping the healthy growth of the foreign exchange market, he said.

which is not fully developed in China at present," the official was quoted as saying.

China's murky currency policies have created a flood of rumours about the future of the FEC, the convertible hard currency scrip which is issued to foreigners.

The FEC, which has followed the dollar upward in black market trading against the yuan, suffered a number of setbacks in recent weeks following black market rumours that it would soon be abolished.

Yang Xianlin, a senior policy official at the SAEC, told Chinese reporters these rumours were groundless.

"He said that up to today, he has been given no notification of the abolition of the FEC," Shanghai's official Wenhuibao said.

"The rumours that the FEC will no longer be issued and that the FEC will be abolished are without foundation," Mr. Yang was quoted as saying.

China has repeatedly said that it plans to phase out the FEC and make the yuan fully convertible as part of market reforms aimed at securing entry into the GATT.

Officials so far have given no timetable, however, and have repeatedly told people the change will not come soon.

British chancellor Clarke faces tough budget hurdle

LONDON (R) — Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke inherited a serious budget deficit from Norman Lamont and will have to make unpopular tax and spending decisions in coming months, analysts say.

But he said a combination of spending cuts and certain tax adjustments, such as another increase in value added tax (VAT), was likely in November.

The government plans to introduce a combined spending and revenue budget for the following tax year each November, starting this year.

Mr. Gunner felt the government would live with a high borrowing requirement for many months until growth increased tax revenues.

Other analysts said there had been some belief after the March budget that corporate taxes had not been raised or allowances pared and firms were braced for change in November.

One said that if the tentative economic recovery now under way took root, companies would be better placed to support a higher tax burden in the 1994/95 fiscal year.

On the government's current projections, the public sector borrowing requirement for 1994/95 will be \$44 billion (\$68.44 billion), still 6.5 per cent of GDP.

A row broke out last month over a root and branch review for public spending being carried out by the chief secretary to the treasury, Michael Portillo.

Mr. Portillo, a right-winger

who declared that no part of the social security system would be out of bounds in the search for cuts, has remained at the treasury, his stature increased by the reshuffle that took away his old boss, Mr. Rendell said.

"The way the deficit is nothing can be excluded," said Nigel Rendell, an economist with James Capel, but he doubted whether the government would try to milk industry for funds.

"Any sort of tax increase

would be the biggest U-turn imaginable," Mr. Rendell said, noting that lowering taxes was a key policy plank of the ruling Conservative Party.

"The way forward for them is

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 7, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astralloger, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although recreation is still on your mind, leave some time open for an important business matter as well. You can make your life far more satisfying than it is now by channelling energies wisely.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Sidestep both home and world confrontations and instead put your attention on how to impress a business person with your good common sense.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to try to compromise with a demanding associate and taking a jaunt to see and talk things out with this difficult person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Promises you have made to do for others can be the mainspring of todays action and make sure you do nothing financially to endanger your security.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can have some very happy moments today but make sure that you consider and agree to the cost before engaging in them, then tonight visit companion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) In a family problem, talking with an advisor in confidence and following this advice can solve this issue, then study your financial position.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own judgment and views are pretty accurate now and you would be wise to let a companion in trouble know just what you think should be done.

India needs \$3b a year to finance deficit

Russian privatisation vouchers exceed par value for first time

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's once-dormant privatisation vouchers have exceeded their nominal value for the first time on optimism over a decree President Boris Yeltsin issued last month to boost confidence in the vast state sell-off.

The vouchers were issued free in the latter part of 1992 to 150 million Russians to be swapped for shares in state firms.

Russian bankers said the vouchers were traded at 11,500 rubles after hovering below 5,000 so far this year. They have a face value of 10,000 rubles.

"Prices have been firming because of recent government measures to support the voucher scheme. The government must continue to encourage investors," said Valery Lazutkin, finance

director of the Moscow brokerage house C.A. and Company Ltd.

The mini-boom followed Mr. Yeltsin's May 8 decree barring investment funds — main players in vouchers — from selling privatisation cheques for cash in a bid to support prices.

About 400 investment funds have sprung up in Russia this year but they have been accused by many brokers of depressing prices by dumping large amounts of vouchers on the market.

"The ban against investment funds is rather strong, but the situation was getting out of hand. The funds were just speculating on the market," said Maxim Boiko, adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais in

charge of privatisations. "The new decree sends a clear signal to speculators."

Mr. Boiko said the state Committee for State Property Management in charge of privatisations would act as a capital market watchdog until the formation of a Russian securities and exchange commission, also decreed in May.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree makes sell-offs compulsory at public catering and consumer services sectors ahead of an Aug. 1 deadline and threatens with dismissal factor managers who fail to transform their enterprises into joint stock firms by June 11.

It authorises local state property committees to go ahead with sell-offs if companies fail to do so on their own.

Germany sees worst decline since 1968

BONN (R) — West Germany's economy shrank by more than three per cent in the first quarter of 1993 from a year earlier, its sharpest decline since 1968. The Federal Statistics Office has said.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said the figures confirmed that the recession could develop into the worst slump in three decades, but some private economists pointed to other signs that an end to the slide was in sight.

gross domestic product (GDP) fell 1.5 per cent in the first quarter from the fourth quarter of 1992 and gross national product (GNP) fell two per cent.

Compared to the same period a year earlier, GDP fell 3.2 per cent and GNP fell 3.7 per cent.

"This is the sharpest decline in GNP in real terms since quarterly data were first published in 1968," the statistics office said. The decline in GDP was the worst since the first quarter of 1975, when it fell 3.5 per cent.

The data, showing the fourth consecutive quarterly decline in west German GDP, revealed a sharp decrease in exports of 5.4 per cent from a year earlier and in imports of 6.3 per cent.

"Growth data from the Federal Statistics Office for the first quarter confirm... that the current recession in West Germany could become worse than those in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s," Mr. Rexrodt said in a statement.

International donors have reduced aid to Tanzania although the West still funds 70 per cent of Tanzania's budget.

Tanzania still in slump — minister

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — The rate of economic growth in Tanzania declined marginally in 1992 but reliance on foreign aid rose, Finance Minister Kigoma Malima has said.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth fell to 3.6 per cent from 4.0 per cent in 1991, but remained ahead of the average rate of population growth of 2.8 per cent a year.

Inflation rose to 23 per cent from 21 per cent in the same period, Mr. Malima told Reuters.

Mr. Malima blamed the decline on "the necessary but painful scaling currency depreciation and

a chronic scarcity of foreign exchange."

He said owing to the local currency's fall against all main convertible currencies, prices of essential goods had soared.

"It's going to be painful before it gets better," he said.

Mr. Malima said the shilling should be devalued until it reflected its real worth on the international market.

He said agricultural production had stagnated in the last year due to poor weather and the East African country's dilapidated infrastructure.

Coffee, tea, cotton and sisal —

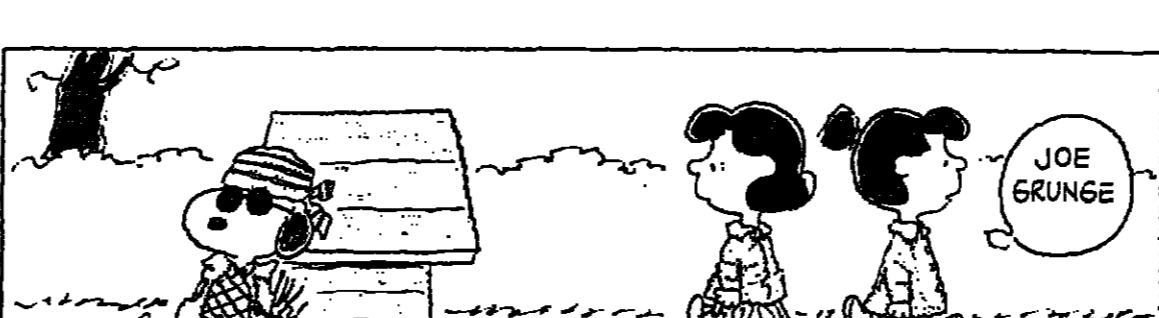
Local industry has also suffered from cheaper imported goods owing to the freeing of the markets by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi's free-market oriented economic policies, he said.

Economists at Dar Es Salaam University blamed Mr. Mwinyi for opening up Tanzania to relatively cheap imports.

"We cannot make headway in this manner," one economist said.

International donors have reduced aid to Tanzania although the West still funds 70 per cent of Tanzania's budget.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold

NAHVE

They can afford it.

IDEPT

IDEAS

DRENCE

DRIVEN

YULOHN

YOUTHFUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Economy

Egypt inflation edges up to 12.8%

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian urban annual inflation rate edged up to 12.8 per cent in March from 9.3 per cent at the start of the year according to government figures.

Inflation hit a high of 26.1 per cent early in 1992 as Egypt started to implement economic reforms

but dropped to below 10 per cent in June and stayed there for the rest of the year.

Western economists say inflation hits many of Egypt's poor much harder because they rely on fixed government salaries and subsidies on basic goods which

the government is removing under the reforms, backed by the International Monetary Fund.

A Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics report showed the costs of rent, water use and domestic fuel had gone up by 22.0 per cent in the year to March and public transport rose 34.5 per cent.

Meats and poultry rose by 15.7 per cent and 21.8 per cent respectively while edible oils shot up by 54.9 per cent.

Government economists say the diet of poor Egyptians has come to depend even more on bread in the past two years as subsidies on staples like rice and macaroni have been removed.

Egypt spends nearly \$1 billion importing wheat to make the heavily subsidised bread each year and Prime Minister Atef Sedki announced that the government had no plans to raise the price, currently about 1.5 cents per loaf.

"Other strategic projects underway involves the transport of crude oil, refined oil and gas, for which studies have been updated given the strong changes in the supply and demand on the world market," it added.

The Riyadh-based NSCSA currently operates 26 ships, of which 16 vessels are used to transport petrochemicals, among the main exports of Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states.

It is the world's fifth largest firm in petrochemical shipping.

In 1991, the company made a record net profit of \$15 million (\$137 million), attributed to its transport services to the nearly 700,000 troops in the anti-Iraq coalition.

Its 1992 profits stood at 203 million riyals (\$54 million).

The Saudi government owns around 29 per cent of the company's capital of two billion riyals (\$33 million), while the rest is subscribed by local institutions and individuals.

"NSCSA is also planning to expand its regular shipping lines and open new lines seek new shipping agents, and carry out a project to store and repair containers with the aim of diversifying its income sources," the report said.

It said the company was servicing 45 ports after the opening of a line to China, the first direct link between southern China and international ports.

The company also reported a sharp growth in its financial position.

Saudi shipping firm announces major expansion projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Saudi shipping company, one of the largest in the world, has embarked on major projects to boost its fleet and transport crude oil and gas for the first time.

The National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia (NSCSA)

said the projects were outlined in a 1992-1996 development plan triggered by record profits in 1991

In its annual report, the company said some of the projects had been completed and studies were underway for the remaining ventures.

"Among the priorities of the development plan is the strategic project to boost the transport capacity of the general cargo fleet, which includes buying new container ships," said the report.

Kuwait plans to halve 93/94 budget deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait expects to raise oil revenues by a fifth and cut the budget deficit by almost a half in fiscal year 1993/94 starting on July 1, according to budget proposals published Saturday.

The proposals put total government income at 2.71 billion dinars (\$8.9 billion) and expenditure at 3.9 billion dinars (\$12.8 billion), leaving a deficit of 1.18 billion dinars (\$3.8 billion), the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

That compares with planned spending of 4.22 billion dinars (\$13.9 billion), planned income of 2.217 billion (\$7.3 billion) and a notional deficit of two billion

dinars (\$6.6 billion) in 1992/93.

Projected spending is a seven

per cent fall from the 4.2 billion dinars (\$13.9 billion) seen in 1992/93 budget plans.

Opposition deputies have cal-

led for belt tightening on major

infrastructure and defence pro-

jects to further reduce a budget

deficit swollen by Gulf war-

related costs.

But parliamentarians are also

under pressure from constituents

to ensure government jobs for all

Kuwaitis and generous handouts

for anyone with a grievance:

The budget proposals, sent to

parliament for debate by Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, put oil revenue at 2.4

billion dinars (\$7.9 billion), up 20

per cent from 2.0 billion (\$6.6

billion) in 1992/93, KUNA re-

ported.

KUNA said the government

planned a 22 per cent rise to 271

million dinars (\$894 million) in

allocations to the Fund for Future

Generations — Kuwait's protec-

tion against the day its oil runs

out — from 221.8 million dinars

(\$732 million) in 1992/93.

By law 10 per cent of revenue

goes to the fund, which comprises

most of the emirate's overseas

assets.

The assets, once valued at up

to \$100 billion, have been run

down by costs related to the 1991

conflict in which a U.S.-led

alliance liberated the emirate

from Iraqi occupation. Some

market estimates put the current

value at between \$15 billion and

\$35 billion.

Finance Minister Nasser

Abdullah Al Rodhan has said the

deficit will be financed primarily

by internal and external borrow-

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1993

ing rather than liquidation of assets.

Meanwhile, official figures

showed that rising oil revenues

slashed Kuwait's trade deficit in

1992, a 78 per cent drop from

1.1 billion dinars (\$3.6 billion) in

1991.

The value of oil exports rose to

1.82 billion dinars (\$6.01 billion)

in calendar 1992 from 248 million

(\$818 million) in 1991, a central bank quarterly statistical bulletin

said.

Oil production and revenue

have been rising steadily as oil

installations damaged during the

1991 Gulf war are repaired. Oil

sales account for more than 90

per cent of foreign earnings.

The trade balance ballooned

into deficit in 1991 as the country

heavily depended on imported mate-

rials needed for reconstruction

following Iraq's seven-month

occupation and the six-week war

that ended it.

In the third quarter of 1992 the

trade balance moved into surplus

for the first time since the con-

flict.

Increasing oil exports contrib-

uted to a 65 per cent rise in the

quarterly trade surplus to 182.9

million dinars (\$603 million) in

the fourth quarter of 1992 from

111 million (\$366 million) in the

third quarter, the bank said.

Oil export revenues rose 30 per

cent to 674 million dinars (\$3.2

billion) in the last quarter of 1992

from 520 million dinars (\$1.7

billion) in the third quarter.

Non-oil export revenues fell

3.5 per cent to 43.5 million dinars

(\$143 million) in the last quarter

of 1992 from 45.1 million dinars

(\$148 million) in the third.

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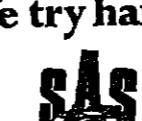
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World News

U.N. relief airlift resumes as fighting continues in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations resumed its humanitarian aid airlift to Sarajevo Sunday after a four-day interruption, and a huge convoy of 500 relief trucks was bound for the hard-pressed Muslim of Tuzla.

But the Muslim, Serb and Croat belligerents in Bosnia's 14-month-old ethnic civil war battled in central, eastern and northern parts of the shattered ex-Yugoslav republic.

Complicating peace efforts, rebels in the neighbouring Serb-held territory of Krajina in Croatia also called a referendum to unify their rebel state with Serb-held lands in Bosnia.

The plan for a referendum on June 19-20 leaves open the possibility of merging eventually with the proper, the main component of rump Yugoslavia.

The Serb Krajina assembly took the decision Saturday at a meeting in the Serb-controlled town of Petrinja.

The assembly decided to meet in Knin, the enclave's and said a joint constituent assembly of a new united Serb state would be held on June 28, when a "head of state" would be elected.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) resumed its Sarajevo airlift, which was suspended last Wednesday after a

U.S. aircraft was fired on. A Canadian aircraft from Ancona in Italy was the first plane to land Sunday morning.

A spokesman for the UNHCR office in Sarajevo told Reuters other aircraft would be arriving from Ancona and from Split and Zagreb in Croatia. "We're back to full on," the official said.

The airlift is vital for the Bosnian capital, which has been under Serb siege for the past 14 months.

A "salvation convoy" of 500 aid trucks organised by the Bosnians themselves is driving across the republic towards the northern town of Tuzla, U.N. officials said Saturday.

Local authorities in Tuzla, a Muslim town swelled by thousands of civil war refugees, organised the relief action, U.N. spokesman Commander Barry Fremer said.

Tuzla is one of six besieged districts declared "safe areas" by the United Nations, which voted Friday to send 5,000 additional troops to help to protect the havens.

Serb forces are pressing on with an offensive against the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia, attacking civilian targets,

Muslim-run Sarajevo Radio said Sunday.

The Serb assault on Gorazde another of the six Muslim enclaves designated as safe areas, continued with several infantry attacks on all defence lines Saturday and shells hitting a number of critical targets, the radio said.

Serb forces have prevented U.N. military observers from entering Gorazde so far to assess the situation.

From central Bosnia, Reuters correspondent John Fullerton reported that Croats and Muslims skirmished around the towns of Travnik and Vitez Sunday, using rockets, heavy mortars and artillery.

U.N. military sources said a ceasefire agreed Saturday in Travnik still held in most parts but multiple-barreled rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns and mortars could clearly be heard sounding into outlying areas.

Croat forces opened up with 120 mm mortars and a single 152 mm gun — known by peacekeepers as "Nora" — on Muslim-held parts of Vitez from about 5 a.m. (0300 GMT).

A 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun used tracer to pinpoint Muslim houses on a ridge above a British U.N. peacekeepers' base,

and machinegun fire and heavy mortar rounds followed.

The eastern Bosnian Muslim town of Srebrenica was also reported to be tense Saturday, U.N. military sources said, and 16 artillery rounds crashed into the Muslim-held Bihać area in the northwest of Bosnia.

The Bosnian capital Sarajevo was relatively quiet. Bosnian Serbs meanwhile blamed Muslims for a massacre last week when 11 people were killed and 100 wounded in a mortar bomb attack against a soccer game in a Muslim area of Sarajevo.

They said the Muslims staged the attack to incriminate the Serbs and put pressure on the U.N. Security Council on the eve of the Council's vote on safe areas.

Meanwhile, French President François Mitterrand had written to his Serbian counterpart Slobodan Milošević demanding the release of jailed opposition leader Vuk Drasković, his office said Sunday.

The letter, sent Saturday after Mr. Drasković was beaten up, arrested and charged with treason, warned Serbia it could not come out of international isolation if it abused basic human rights such as liberty of expression.



New Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio (left) takes the oath of office early Sunday from the leader of the Congress Jose Lebo Dubon (AP photo)

Congress elects top human rights official as Guatemalan president

GUATEMALA CITY (R) —

Guatemala's top human rights ombudsman took over as president early Sunday and pledged to rebuild democracy, five days after the army deposed President Jorge Serrano in a bloodless palace coup.

President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, sworn into office a few hours after congress elected him president to replace Mr. Serrano, pleaded for national unity but faced a delicate relationship with Guatemala's powerful armed forces.

Mr. De Leon took office following 12 days of turmoil sparked when Mr. Serrano, claiming he was fighting corruption and the drug trade, seized near-dictatorial powers on May 25. The army overthrew him barely a week later.

"I am calling at this historic moment for national unity, without revenge or vengeance," Mr. De Leon said in a inaugural speech.

He was chosen president in the second round of voting by a special session of the unicameral Congress.

Mr. De Leon has been the Congress-appointed human rights ombudsman for three years, a post in which he became one of the country's most prominent defenders of human rights.

He often accused the army of committing atrocities against civilians in its 30-year war on leftist guerrillas.

While political leaders hope Mr. De Leon's election will bring order to the turbulent Central American nation, the big question surrounding his presidency will be his relations with the military.

He did not mention the army in his 20-minute inaugural speech but stressed his "life-long commitment to democracy and full respect of human rights."

Despite improvements in recent years, Guatemala still has one of the worst human rights records in Latin America.

Rumours of an imminent military takeover have swept the Guatemalan capital for two weeks but Mr. De Leon earlier Saturday discounted fears that his election would provoke hostility, or worse, from army chiefs.

"They have made it clear that they will not be antagonistic towards me," he told reporters. "The controversy we have had has been due to the nature of my work."

He praised the army's intervention to force Mr. Serrano from power Tuesday with the support of an extraordinary coalition of business, trade union.

"The army's behaviour throughout the crisis has been correct," he said.

But sources close to the military say the army's top brass is divided and fear any effort to remove officers who backed Mr. Serrano could draw a violent reaction.

Defence Minister General Jose Garcia Samayoa at first backed Mr. Serrano's "self-coup" but then withdrew his support as he faced the face of manager Katherine Haggart, and demanded the shop takings but fled when she refused to hand them over. Scottish newspapers reported.

Since Mr. Serrano's overthrow, army leaders have been anxious to distance themselves from political power struggles that have paralysed Guatemala.

6 dead as ship runs aground off New York

NEW YORK (AP) — About 200 illegal Asian immigrants jumped ship after their freighter ran aground on a sandbar just off the New York City coast early Sunday, authorities said.

Six people died and at least 18 were seriously injured after being pulled from the chilly Atlantic Ocean by authorities or making their own way to shore through two-metre surf. Many suffered hypothermia and at least two had cardiac arrests.

He was chosen president in the second round of voting by a special session of the unicameral Congress.

About 100 people remained on board, said Sergeant John McCloskey, a police spokesman.

Two people from the ship were pronounced dead at the scene, said emergency medical service spokesman Charles Degaetano. The exact cause of the deaths was not immediately known.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Raymond O'Donnell said all the ship's passengers were illegal aliens. The ship's origin was not immediately known.

Officials from the Immigration and Naturalisation service were at the scene handcuffing and leading away some of the passengers, who were mostly young

men, and tagging others.

"Whether they were aboard the freighter to work or were planning on jumping off when they got here, I don't know," said Fire Department spokesman Jerry Sanford.

"Most of them were carrying belongings in little plastic bags with them," he added.

The 45-metre freighter ran aground at 2 a.m. (0600 GMT) in two metres of water, about 300 metres off Jacob Riis Park in the borough of Queens, at 2 a.m. (0600 GMT), police said.

Hundreds of rescuers and law-enforcement officials were at the scene early Sunday

Venezuela interim president sworn in

CARACAS (R) — A veteran senator Saturday became Venezuela's interim president replacing suspended President Carlos Andres, who is charged with corruption in a nation gripped by political, economic and social turmoil.

The proposal was rejected by the Royalists who charged that Prince Sihanouk's initiative ran contrary to the U.N.-sponsored 1991 Paris peace agreement and did not reflect the outcome of the election.

Prince Sihanouk announced the dissolution of the plan the next morning.

But some Cambodians felt the idea offered the only chance of achieving a lasting peace for their war-weary country.

last year. A host of violent protests and political opportunism in moments of crisis.

"It will not be a government that creates miracles but I will do everything in my reach to resolve the complaints of Venezuelans," Mr. Velasquez told Congress after being sworn in.

"The country cannot continue living from shock to shock. The people cannot be submitted to an interminable extension of a recurring crisis. I invite different sectors to return to a spirit of solidarity that has been dampened by threats, rumours and dramatic events."

He began to consider economic policy and cabinet changes and called for "solidarity" in a nation convulsed by two coup attempts

The independent senator replaces Mr. Perez, who was suspended from his duties two weeks ago and sent to trial on charges of being anti-democratic.

Clinton looks to pull momentum out of chaos

WASHINGTON (R) — Bill Clinton looks likely to try to restore momentum to his battered presidency this week by putting the focus back on the U.S. economy and possibly picking a moderate nominee for the Supreme Court.

Mr. Clinton and the White House are looking for a breather from a state of chaos most recently demonstrated by the crisis over the president's withdrawal of black law professor Lani Guinier as his assistant attorney general for civil rights.

There was optimism among many White House officials that the Guinier controversy would die quickly, and that the appointment of David Gergen as counselor to the president would help Mr. Clinton regain his political equilibrium.

"We're turning the corner," one Clinton aide said.

Mr. Gergen, who served three Republican presidents, starts work officially Monday.

How successful have prevention programmes and early treatment of HIV-infected people been in slowing the spread of AIDS?

ton has core beliefs, and it spared the country a fight it didn't need.

Mr. Clinton withdrew the candidacy of Ms. Guinier, saying he could not defend her intellectual writings that covered ways to grant more political power to minorities. Conservatives rallied against her, saying they found her writings extreme to the point of being anti-democratic.

The pain and anguish that Mr. Clinton endured over the decision to withdraw the nomination of a friend of 20 years was written on his face when he announced it at a news conference Thursday night.

"It was the hardest decision I've had to make since I became president," Mr. Clinton said later, according to veteran New York Times reporter R.W. Apple, one of several people who had dinner with the president before he announced his decision.

Mr. Clinton aides and allies hope solid progress on these two issues will help the public forget about the embarrassment over Ms. Guinier and other controversies.

Al From, president of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council that Mr. Clinton founded, said dropping Ms. Guinier was a critical decision for getting Mr. Clinton's presidency back on track because it proved Mr. Clinton

should have made a stand and fought for the nomination to show he had backbone.

Mr. From said it was important now for Mr. Clinton to move his economic plans forward in the next two weeks and make sure Congress goes along with a down payment on welfare reform to begin fulfilling some campaign promises.

"His presidency is in trouble, but I believe it can be quickly turned around with some successes on some of the cornerstone ideas that he ran on," Mr. From said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Gergen, whose appointment angered some liberals because of his connection to the economic policies of Ronald Reagan, insists he is an independent now but said Mr. Clinton must reach out to Republicans to succeed.

"The question is whether Bill Clinton can pull together an administration and whether he can work with Republicans, which I think is important to do, to have a bipartisan administration, to reach out," Mr. Gergen said Friday.

Four-star hotel slipping... into the sea?

SCARBOROUGH, England (AP) — A four-star hotel known for its spectacular views of the sea was getting a close-up look following a big landslide. Two large chunks of the Victorian Holbeck Hall Hotel collapsed Saturday afternoon, shedding debris down the 150-foot (45-metre) slope created by the landslide across the beach below. The hotel's rose gardens, sun lounge and part of the restaurant fell earlier. The hotel's ornate entrance also has collapsed. "It's only a matter of time now before we lose the entire northeast wing on the seaward side," said Mike Clements, director of technical services with Scarborough Council. Officials said salvage work had been halted because the building was too dangerous. Sky Television reported that among the treasures still inside was a £20,000 (\$30,400) oil painting of a noblewoman. A Saturday wedding was rebooked to a more stable venue, as hundreds of sightseers gathered to watch the collapse. Television news bulletins detailed each break-up. On Friday, guests at the £100 (\$153) per night hotel were awoken ready to breakfast and told to get ready to leave. When more of the yard began slipping, they were ordered out immediately. The guests were asked to settle their bills but they were not charged for breakfast, the Times reported.

Robber's rat threat brings 18-month jail term

EDINBURGH (R) — A youth who used his pet rat in a bid to rob an Edinburgh liquor store has been jailed for 18 months by a Scottish court. James Bryce, 18, took the rat from his pocket, held it to the face of manager Katherine Haggart, and demanded the shop takings but fled when she refused to hand them over. Scottish newspapers reported.

Robber's corpse found in burgled house

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Two men broke into a house, drank most of the liquor, and then got into a brawl that left one of the burglars dead inside the home, police said. David Bradley discovered the man's hacked body inside the kitchen Friday when he went to check on the house for his brother, who was away on holiday. Police said they suspected two burglars got into a drunken brawl after breaking into the home in Villiersdorp outside Cape Town. The second burglar escaped with household goods and clothes.

Toho graduate wins Belgium's top music contest

RUSSEL (R) — Yoyoi Toda, a 25-year-old graduate of Tokyo's Toho Academy, won Belgium's prestigious Queen Elisabeth Violin Contest early Sunday after a grueling month-long ascent through eliminatory contests. "It's like a dream," Toda, a self-described admirer of the late Russian violinist David Oistrakh, told reporters after the jury's decision was announced around 2 a.m. "I thought if it didn't work this time I would become a teacher rather than a soloist." Toda elicited praise from the jurors for her liquid, transparent sound in concertos by Sibelius and Janacek. The audience, however, merely clapped politely when her name was announced. It burst into delirious applause when the runner-up, 24-year-old Liviu Prunaru of Romania, was named. The Queen Elisabeth Contest, begun in 1937, alternates yearly between piano, violin, composition and singing. Previous laureates include violinist Leonid Kogan and pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Singer Mariah Carey marries the boss

NEW YORK (R) — Singer Mariah Carey married the boss—Sony Music President Thomas Mottola—in a New York City ceremony attended by such singing stars and Barbra Streisand and Bruce Springsteen. Despite a steady rain, more than 300 guests attended the wedding. The 23-year-old bride said before her marriage to Mottola, 43, that she wanted a "wedding every girl dreams about." If that included a star-studded guest list she got her wish. In addition to Streisand and Springsteen, guests included singer-songwriter Billy Joel and his wife, Model Christie Brinkley; Springsteen's wife, singer Patti Scialfa; singer Michael Bolton, actor Tony Danza, Dick Clark and record mogul David Geffen. Carey appeared on the steps of the church with her new husband.

Sports

Belmont Stakes

Krone becomes first woman to win Triple Crown; Prairie Bayou destroyed

NEW YORK (AP) — Colonial Affair carried Julie Krone into the record books by winning the Belmont Stakes Saturday in a race marred by the breakdown of Preakness winner Prairie Bayou.

Colonial Affair took the lead in the upper stretch and made Krone the first woman jockey ever to win a U.S. thoroughbred Triple Crown race.

Prairie Bayou was humanely destroyed about a half hour after the race — the final leg of the Triple Crown, three weeks to the day after Union City was destroyed after breaking down in the Preakness.

Sea Hero, the Kentucky Derby winner, was in the hunt for a time, but finished out of the money.

The 29-year-old Krone guided Colonial Affair, who had not run in the Derby or Preakness over the 1 1/2 miles (2.4 kilometres) on a good track on a rainy day at Belmont Park in two minutes, 29 4/5 seconds. The winner finished 2 1/4 lengths ahead of Kissin Kris, who was 3 1/2 lengths in front of Wild Gale.

Sea Hero was fourth in the 13-horse field, another two lengths back.

The crowd gasped when Smith appeared to be unseated, although a tape showed the jockey jumped off. Prairie Bayou, who was removed in a horse ambulance, had a broken right foreleg. Smith walked off the track with the horse's trainer, Tom Bohannon.

In the Preakness at Pimlico May 15, Union City broke down on the backstretch after breaking his right front ankle and was destroyed.

Barkley leads Suns into NBA finals

PHOENIX (R) — Charles Barkley turned in a monster performance in the seventh and deciding game of the Western Conference finals Saturday to lead the Phoenix Suns into the National Basketball Association championship series for the first time since 1976.

Barkley scored 44 points and pulled down 24 rebounds as the Suns soundly defeated the Seattle SuperSonics 123-110 to earn a showdown with the two-time defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls.

Chicago finished off the New York Knicks four games to two in the Eastern Conference finals Friday to keep alive their quest to become only the third team in NBA history to win three successive titles.

"I believe we are going to win the World Championship," "I've believed that all year," said Barkley, who led the Suns to the best regular-season record in the league and was named the NBA's most valuable player.

"I feel we've got the best team in the world and I'm glad we're playing Chicago because they're the best," he said.

In the finals, which begin in Phoenix Wednesday night, Barkley will come up against two of his Olympic dream team teammates in Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen.

The Suns will be going for their first NBA title, as will Barkley, who came to Phoenix in a trade last summer after eight seasons with Philadelphia.

Barkley, whose 44 points was a career playoff-high, hit 12-of-20 shots from the field and 19-of-22 from the free throw line as he drew after foul by pulling his way inside.

He scored 16 in the first half when the Suns built a 57-51 halftime advantage. Barkley then scored eight points to spark a 14-2 run that opened the third quarter and finished with 13 points in the period.



Suns' Charles Barkley (left) guards an opponent during NBA playoffs

Phoenix led by as many 19 points at 84-65 before the Sonics closed the quarter with a 15-7 run to pull back to 91-80.

Eddie Johnson, who led Seattle with 34 points on 12-of-17 shooting, scored 18 in the third quarter to keep the Sonics within striking distance.

But Barkley continued to control the game inside with physical strength and sheer determination and completed his brilliant performance with 15 points in the final quarter.

Phoenix started the fourth quarter with a 9-4 run that opened a 100-84 lead and Seattle pulled no closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

Kevin Johnson added 22 points for the Suns and Tom Chambers chipped in 17.

Phoenix hit 57 free throws in 64 attempts, a playoff record for a regulation game.

Sam Perkins scored 19 points and Shawn Kemp added 18 for Seattle, which was looking to advance to the NBA finals for the first time since 1979 when they beat the Washington Bullets for their only championship.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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HIDING BEHIND A WOMEN'S SKIRTS

Both vulnerable South deals.

NORTH
♦ 7 3
♦ K
♦ A K 7 5 4 2
♦ 9 4 3 2

WEST
♦ K 10 8
♦ Q J 9 8 4
♦ 10
♦ 3 8 7 5
♦ Q 10

EAST
♦ J 9 6
♦ 10 6 3 2
♦ J 9 8 3

SOUTH
♦ A Q 5 4 2
♦ A 7 5
♦ Q 6
♦ A K 6

The bidding:
South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 V Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

It's nice to have a backup line should your main chance fail to come through. But don't be satisfied with just one alternative — dig deep to see whether another chance isn't concealed somewhere.

When partner shows a balanced 19 points by jumping in no trump, we would not dream of passing with the North hand. We would bid four diamonds, confirming at least a six-

card suit and some slam interest. That would have gotten us to six diamonds, which might be made after a heart opening lead if declarer guesses to set up the spade suit.

Against three no trump, West led the queen of hearts. Declarer won in dummy partner and went after the diamonds. When West discarded on the second diamond, declarer had only eight tricks, and looked for the ninth by taking the spade finesse. Unlucky.

Our perpetual pessimist would have made quick work of the contract. South would have decided that diamonds weren't breaking and that the spade finesse would also fail, and would have looked for any other possibility. The club suit offered that chance.

After winning the opening lead, declarer should immediately lead ace, king and another club. If the suit divides evenly, the 13th club sets up; if not, a club can still be established if East bids two honors unguarded, as in the diagram. If neither clubs nor diamonds break, declarer can still fall back on the spades for the fulfilling trick. As it is, the club suit delivers the contract.

When partner shows a balanced 19 points by jumping in no trump, we would not dream of passing with the North hand. We would bid four diamonds, confirming at least a six-

Werder Bremen grabs German title

BERLIN (AP) — Bernd Hobisch scored two second-half goals to lead Werder Bremen to its third Bundesliga crown with a 3-0 victory over VFB Stuttgart Saturday.

The victory gave Bremen an 18-10-5 record and 48 points, one more than Bayern Munich, which drew 3-3 at Schalke and saw its hopes for a 13th German title evaporate.

Both Bremen and Bayern entered the day with identical records but Bremen ahead by a mere goal difference of one.

The title, Bremen's first since 1988, avenged its 1986 disappointment when a last-day loss to Stuttgart cost it the crown and gave it to Bayern.

At Stuttgart, Hobisch broke the scoreless tie with a 46th-minute goal and Thomas Wolter added the first insurance goal four minutes later, Hobisch completed the victory with a 74th-minute tally.

The Suns held Seattle's leading scorer, Ricky Pierce, just seven points to 2-of-8 shooting from the field. Pierce had scored 23 points in Seattle's 118-102 win over Phoenix in game six.

"I didn't think we were going to close," said Barkley, who will not be satisfied unless he ends the season with a championship ring.

Phoenix started the fourth quarter with a 9-4 run that opened a 100-84 lead and Seattle pulled no closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

Kevin Johnson added 22 points for the Suns and Tom Chambers chipped in 17.

Phoenix hit 57 free throws in 64 attempts, a playoff record for a regulation game.

Sam Perkins scored 19 points and Shawn Kemp added 18 for Seattle, which was looking to advance to the NBA finals for the first time since 1979 when they beat the Washington Bullets for their only championship.

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Bruguera captures French Open title

PARIS (AP) — Playing fearlessly in his first Grand Slam final, Sergi Bruguera ended Jim Courier's two-year reign as French Open champion Sunday in a thrilling, five-set battle of baseline slugger.

Bruguera was a heavy underdog, bringing in a lifetime 0-4 record against a man who had won 20 straight French Open matches. But the 11th-seeded Spaniard beat Courier at his own power game, making fewer errors and exchanging winner for winner in a 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory that took four hours.

Courier, the overwhelming pre-tournament favorite despite his No. 2 seeding, started impressively with an easy win in the second and fourth sets, and appeared on route to victory when he broke Bruguera's serve to open the fifth set.

But Bruguera electrified the crowd by breaking back in the fourth game, scoring on a lob and a drop shot to even the set at 2-2.

He broke again in the sixth game when Courier slammed a forehand ground stroke into the net.

Courier had two break points as Bruguera served for the match at 5-3, but Bruguera saved them. Courier saved one match point, but on the second one, he hit a groundstroke too long, and Bruguera collapsed on his back in ecstasy, fists clenched in the air.

On Saturday, Steffi Graf was hungry enough to become French Open champion again.

After a shaky start, the top-seeded German came from behind in the final set to defeat No. 5 Mary Joe Fernandez 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 Saturday for her third French Open title.

Yet, Graf seemed more subdued than ecstatic.

When Fernandez hit a forehand into the net to end the match after two hours, 30 minutes, Graf showed little jubilation. She held up her arms briefly, turned to her coach and parents in the stands, then exchanged kisses with Fernandez at the net.

The mood was clearly tempered by the absence of Monica Seles, who won the French Open the past three years but was unable to defend her title this year.

"Obviously you want to have everybody in the field," she said. "But I won it the way I did, and there is nothing else I can do about it."

Graf said she felt more relieved than anything else.

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Arafat wants U.N. to play greater role

(AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and urged the United Nations to play a bigger role in the peace process. But he did not specify what role the U.N. might play in the 10-month-old peace process. He said he was sure more could be done to end a stalemate he blamed in Israel.

"Until now, the U.N. has been playing a role, but we want this role to be more active in the future," he told reporters after an hour of discussions with Dr. Ghali at the PLO's headquarters in a Tunis suburb.

Dr. Ghali, who was standing beside Mr. Arafat, said he had appointed a special personal representative to multilateral regional Middle East tasks.

The U.N. chief said his representative will be Indian diplomat Chinmoy Garekhan, a U.N. under-secretary who will "act on behalf of the U.N. and make goodwill efforts to see this issue resolved in accordance with U.N. resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

Both Mr. Arafat and Dr. Ghali described their talks as "very positive and constructive."

Dr. Ghali arrived in Tunis Friday on the third leg of a North African tour that took him to Morocco and Algeria.

He said he had fruitful talks with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and his foreign minister, Habib Ben Hifiya, on the Western Sahara problem, the Libyan conflict with the West and other issues.

He said he would discuss further the Libyan confrontation with the United States over the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 with Libyan officials during an African summit in Cairo later this month.

But Dr. Ghali declined to say if the United Nations is playing any other role in ending the conflict, which led the Security Council to impose aviation, diplomatic and arms sanctions on Tripoli.

Earlier, Dr. Ghali visited the Pakistani embassy in Tunis where he expressed condolences to the ambassador on the slaying of 28 Pakistani soldiers working with U.N. forces in Somalia.

He said he would urge the Security Council to adopt measures that will ensure the protection of all U.N. troops and other personnel in Somalia and punish those who were responsible.

The U.N. chief said the incident would not stop the United Nations from continuing its humanitarian effort in Somalia "to promote peace and reconstruction."



SPANIARDS VOTE: Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez (second from left) and his wife Carmen Romero (left), surrounded by photo

Brotherhood appears divided over elections

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood leadership Sunday appeared divided on whether to take part in the next parliamentary election.

On Saturday one of the movement's most prominent leaders, Abdul Rahim Ekour, told the Reuters news agency that the movement would boycott the elections if the Election Law was changed. On Sunday, however, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the spokesman of the Brotherhood deputies in Parliament, Ibrahim Kheisat, as saying the movement would take part in the next election no matter what changes were introduced to the law.

Reuter quoted Mr. Ekour as saying: "We will boycott the next elections and we will call on the Jordanian people to boycott the elections if the present election is changed without approval of the Parliament."

Mr. Kheisat said: "We have decided to take part in the election under any circumstances and

whatever law governs the next polls."

According to Mr. Ekour, the Islamic movement informed King Hussein recently that it opposed changing the present Election Law, but if it is to be changed, an extraordinary session of Parliament must be called to approve any changes or amendments.

Mr. Kheisat denied the movement had taken any such decision.

"There is no decision against our participation in the next elections," he said.

"We are running our affairs on the basis of participation in the elections. If any change to our position takes place it will be announced in due time."

The Brotherhood is the largest single bloc in Parliament.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, appointed a week to head a caretaker government before the ballot, said this week that Jordan may change its election laws to introduce the principle of one vote per person.

'Gaza first' is Israeli focus in tenth round

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel on Sunday accepted an official invitation to the resumption of the 10th round of U.S.- and Russian-sponsored Middle East peace talks in Washington set for June 15, the prime minister's spokesman said.

The spokesman said the incident would not stop the United Nations from continuing its humanitarian effort in Somalia "to promote peace and reconstruction."

With little progress reported in the talks so far, speculation on the content of the next round swirled around the idea of granting autonomy to the Gaza Strip first as one possible avenue for a breakthrough.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hinted last month that the Gaza Strip could be the test case of any agreement on an interim period of self-government. Palestinians labelled the idea premature.

"We believe that the Americans want to hear more about it and we also believe that the Palestinians, despite their statements, will also want to hear more on it," said Gad Ben-Ari, Mr. Rabin's spokesman.

Formal invitations for the June 15 talks were also sent to the Arab participants in the peace talks — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. They were expected to announce their intentions to return to the talks following a meeting of their foreign ministers Sunday in Amman.

"The statements were not very encouraging, but we know in the Middle East reality sometimes things do not go into straight lines," said Mr. Ben-Ari.

"Sometimes an idea moves ahead two steps and then backwars one step," he said.

The Palestinians have previously said they would only accept autonomy for Gaza if the Israelis decided to withdraw on their own, without linking it to any agreement for the rest of the occupied territories.

The settlement has to be a comprehensive one. The whole territory — Gaza, West Bank and Jerusalem — has to be treated as a unit. We cannot deal with fragmentation," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, when Mr. Rabin raised the idea last month.

Mr. Rabin mentioned the idea at a cabinet meeting.

"However, when an agreement is reached in principle on an interim settlement, there is nothing preventing its being applied in Gaza," press reports at the time quoted Mr. Rabin's statement as saying.

Husseini to meet Arafat before going to Washington

DUBAI (R) — Chief Palestinian peace negotiator Faisal Al Husseini will consult Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat before discussing U.S. principles for self-rule, PLO officials said Saturday.

Mr. Husseini, who is currently on a fence-sitting visit to the United Arab Emirates, is expected to meet Mr. Arafat in Tunis next week before heading for Washington, the officials said.

Arab diplomats said there was also a proposal for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to meet Israeli and Arab negotiators ahead of the 10th round of peace talks, due to start on June 15, to try and narrow differences.

Diplomats said Mr. Husseini sent Washington this week a five-page document containing questions on an American draft proposal for interim self-rule for the nearly two million Palestinians living under Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian questions deal with the final status of the occupied territories and the escalation of violence there, the future of Jerusalem and other issues, diplomats said.

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On the last day of the ninth round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, the

Cash crisis forces PLO cutbacks in Jordan

By John Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The cash-strapped Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has suspended a health insurance scheme for its employees and their families in Jordan in its latest belt-tightening measure, PLO sources said Sunday.

The move affects the 3,000 Amman-based employees of the PLO, which faces a financial crunch resulting from a cutoff in Arab financial assistance following the 1990 Gulf crisis.

Employees at the PLO mission and related institutions in Jordan have not been paid their salaries for the past three months, a sum of \$400,000 monthly, one source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

That account was confirmed by two other PLO officials.

The officials said they were hoping PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected to visit Jordan this week, would be able to solve the crisis.

The officials acknowledged that the financial problems were a result of the suspension of millions of dollars in aid from oil-rich Gulf states in retaliation for the PLO's tilt towards Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait nearly three years ago.

Gulf states holding back from the payment of millions of dollars in "liberation tax" collected from Palestinian expatriates for Arab

countries and occupied territories.

The PLO has implemented a series of austerity measures, including the suspension of monthly payments of about \$7 million to the families of Palestinian detainees and "martyrs" in the 5½-year-old uprising in the occupied territories, the source said.

According to the source, other cost-cutting actions include tightening the travel budget for PLO officials, moving to lower-rent residences and trimming allowances for employees of the Tunis-based organization.

Liberian money stops PLO critic

Somalia
(Continued from page 1)

They said Pakistan wants its soldiers to be given armoured personnel carriers, tanks and helicopters to prevent similar incidents.

"We can't be on trucks and on jeeps and be sitting ducks," said Sharahyar Khan, the number two official at Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

The Security Council scheduled an emergency session Sunday to deal with the crisis.

Saturday's fighting broke out when U.N. troops inspected weapons warehouses, Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Munir Akram said the commander of Pakistan's troops in Somalia had told Reuters.

Mr. Kamal, Mr. Husseini and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas arrived in the UAE Saturday to try and mend ties soured by the PLO's pro-Iraqi stand during the 1990 Gulf crisis. It is the first such visit since the Gulf war.

They have so far met UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, and Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Zayed Al Nahyan.

Members of the Palestinian team told Reuters the talks were very constructive and stayed clear of the PLO's stand during the Gulf war.

"They did not try to embarrass us or say who was wrong and who was right. Sheikh Khalifa briefly mentioned the Gulf crisis and moved on to bilateral ties, asked about the peace talks, the situation in the occupied lands, the issue of Jerusalem..." a PLO official said.

Gen. Aideed blamed the bloodshed on U.N. soldiers, including Americans, who he said "carried out provocative attacks" across the city.

Egypt says Africans and Arabs angry with Sudan

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

AMMAN — Sudan has angered the Arab World and Africa in policies leading to friction far beyond a border dispute, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Sunday.

"The dispute is not over Halaib. It is much wider than that," Mr. Musa said in a Reuter interview when asked about prospects of reconciliation over the disputed triangle of land on the border between Egypt and Sudan.

"The Arab World is angry and the African world is angry with Sudan," he said.

He did not elaborate but Cairo has accused Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist military government of training guerrillas to export Islamic revolution to Egypt, a charge Khartoum denies.

Tension between the two countries flared last year into a dispute over the potentially oil-rich Halaib triangle, where Sudan decided to mobilise forces after accusing Egypt of sending military reinforcements.

Mr. Musa indicated, however, he did not believe the dispute would escalate into fighting and said Egypt and Sudan, Africa's biggest country, were trying to resolve the dispute.

"Iraq is part and parcel of this region," Mr. Musa said.

He said, however, that continued anger among Gulf states over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait was prevented concrete progress to improve relations.

"The difficulty does not lie with the Iraqi people on Iraq; there is a lot of bitterness," he said.

8 of 21 ministers attend Hekmaty cabinet session

KABUL (R) — Afghan Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmaty held the first meeting of his cabinet in his fortified base south of Kabul Sunday, although most ministers stayed away, a spokesman said.

Cabinet discussions focused on where to hold the next cabinet meeting," Mr. Sayeed said.

President Burhanuddin Rabani sent a delegation to Charasay Sunday to ask Mr. Hekmaty to hold the meeting in Kabul, presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said.

Mr. Morad said the prime minister and his cabinet, announced by the coalition government on May 20 to end bitter internal differences, should first take the oath of office in Kabul before holding a meeting.

Mr. Hekmaty said the cabinet should meet first to decide where he should be based.

Diplomat caught smuggling gold

COLOMBO (R) — An Egyptian diplomat was caught trying to smuggle 153 gold bars, valued at 10.5 million rupees (\$219,000), into Sri Lanka, customs and Foreign Ministry officials said Sunday. They said the gold was found in the false bottom of a bag at Colombo International Airport Saturday and was confiscated.

The diplomat was allowed to leave the airport. The Egyptian embassy was not immediately available for comment. A Foreign Ministry official said Egypt would probably be asked to recall the diplomat if an investigation found the man guilty.

Over 1,000 bicyclists protest in Paris

PARIS (AP) — More than 1,000 bicyclists paraded their cycles through Paris, protesting dangerous streets for cyclists and lack of bike paths in the French capital. The protesters paraded from the Place De La Bastille to the Place De La Concorde, both on Paris' right bank, occasionally snarling traffic in the protest, organised by the cycling group Movement for the Defence of the Bicycle.

"We're not asking that cities be covered with cycling paths, but that bicycles are taken into account with future urban planning projects," said Pierre Millot, president of the movement. He deplored Paris' "disastrous policy" toward cycling, including tunnels and thoroughfares for traffic that leave no room for bicyclists, and the lack of parking spots with guardians at suburban train stations.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said the state security court Sunday found the five Iraqi men guilty of attempting to recruit Kuwaitis to join Iraq's ruling Baath Party following Iraq's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

The court dropped charges against nine other members of the Iraqi-appointed government, the officials said.

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